

Realizing potential. For all women.



The Guelph Line

July 2026

Looking Ahead...

**The first GM of 2026/27 will be held on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00
Watch for more details in the September issue of The Guelph Line**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gwen Revington

Dear CFUW Guelph Members,

I am happy to be resuming the role as President on the Executive for 2026-27. Our club's Policies and Procedures lists 23 (!) specific duties for President, but I believe they can be summarized simply as follows:

- Prepares agendas and presides at executive and general meetings
- Ensures we follow CFUW Guelph Constitution and Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures
- Ensures we have met our obligations with our Provincial and National bodies
- Is a representative and spokesperson for the club
- Handles external CFUW correspondence
- Promotes CFUW and encourages new membership

Speaking of promoting CFUW.....



I'm thrilled to announce the release of the **CFUW Guelph** episode on the *Growing Guelph* podcast!
Growing Guelph is: 🌱 *Sharing stories of the people building, creating, and growing the Guelph community.* 🎧 *Tune in for inspiring conversations with changemakers, innovators, and local leaders.*

Listen to our episode on Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mk5csiQegW0&t=3s>) or Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts. Please share the episode with friends and family and anyone curious about our club. Susan, Deb, Sandra and Sonia have done a superb job of describing what CFUW Guelph is all about in a warm, engaging manner.

I give it 4 out of 4 stars

~ *Gwen*

INTRODUCING THE REST OF YOUR 2026/27 EXECUTIVE!



Vice President Liz Fisk

As Vice President, Liz's primary roles include supporting the President in their duties and responsibilities and chairing meetings in the President's absence. The VP also serves as a signing officer for the club, assists with the review of CFUW resolutions, and takes on a variety of tasks or responsibilities as needed to assist in the smooth functioning of our CFUW club and supporting other club officers and committee chairs are requested.



Past President Jo Ann Hayter

Jo Ann's general role is one of support to the Executive. Specifically, she chairs the Nominating Committee which collaborates to field a slate of candidates for the next year's Executive. She also sends personal notes of condolences on behalf of our membership when a member is experiencing significant illness or loss. Jo Ann is happy to continue as Past President for another year.



Advocacy Chair Deb Thompson

Returning as Advocacy Chair, Deb serves to help keep advocacy on our club's radar. She works with committee members to explore issues that matter to women, girls and our community, share information and look for ways we can make our voices heard. She also keeps the Executive updated on club advocacy and helps connect CFUW Guelph with advocacy efforts at the local, provincial and national levels.



Treasurer Heather Bailey

As Treasurer, Heather is responsible for receiving payment of dues, paying all bills for club expenses, investing any monies not needed for current club operations, transferring all donations to the scholarship committee account and preparing year-end financial statements. She is happy to continue as Treasurer for another year.



photo not available

Program Chair Cathy Farr

The Programming Chair works with a committee to find interesting speakers for the club's monthly general meetings. This is Cathy's first year as Program Chair, although she has previously been Scholarship and Awards Committee Chair. Welcome to your new role, Cathy



Communications Chair Janet Bruder

Formerly the Member at Large, Janet remains on Executive in her new role as Communications Chair. She will oversee the Communications Committee, which distributes e-mails informing members of General Meetings, prepares and distributes the club newsletter and sends out email messages notifying members of milestones and passings. The Communications Chair also ensures our social media feed is impactful, and that members and the community are informed about important moments and events throughout the year. Welcome to your new role, Janet!



Hospitality Chair Jane Kenny

Returning as the Chair of Hospitality, it is Jane's job to secure the dates and times for our monthly meetings at the Water Street Church, open and close the building before and after each meeting and look after the snacks and snack sign-up sheet for our monthly meetings. In addition, she takes charge of the yearly AGM, the location and meal, planning the date and the dinner fare.



Member At Large Judy Scannell

Judy has been a member of CFUW for all of 6 months and a member of the Executive "for about two minutes", so we are delighted she has agreed to take on this role. As Member at Large, she is available to assist in whatever way is most useful. Her first task will be assisting VP Liz Fisk as she begins to review documents, such as the club's Policies and Procedures. Beyond that, she will be open to suggestions from the other Executive members as to ways in which she can be helpful. Welcome Judy!



Secretaries Penny Hendricks (left) & Barbara Shaw (right)

Penny and Barbara will share the duties of Secretary this year. *Penny writes:* "I am starting my 6th year as Secretary of the club. It usually takes me about 10 hours per month to attend to both the Executive and General meetings, write up the minutes and distribute them. The AGM Report is another story - too many hours and a lot of hiccups! So, I am beyond thrilled to have Barb Shaw share the duties with me this year. Thank-you Barb!"

Barbara is looking forward to helping with all of the above. Welcome to Executive!



Member Services Co-Chairs Barbara Kuczynski (left) & Lydia Thomas (right)

In her role as Member Services Chair, Barbara welcomes new members to the club, sends out application forms to new and renewing members and coordinates information with Interest Group Convenors, our Database Manager and our Treasurer. The printing of our annual Blue Book in October and a new members orientation meeting in the fall are also organized by Membership Services. Lydia Thomas will return as Co-Chair and be the Interest Group contact again this year. Lydia communicates with new members and convenors so they can join the interest groups easily. At general meetings her focus is on new members and guests making sure they feel welcome. Barbara is returning as Co-Chair to coordinate the other activities of this essential portfolio.



Scholarship & Awards Chair Gabriella Facchini

Continuing as Chair of this committee, Gabriella works with both past and current Scholarship & Awards Committee members to continue to support excellence in education and to promote access to ongoing and higher education of women. She finds it exciting to support young women pursuing educational goals via our connection with the University of Guelph and Conestoga College

ADVOCACY



The Advocacy Committee recently met to celebrate the end of a productive year and to reflect on our accomplishments. We also discussed priorities and plans for the year ahead as we continue to support CFUW Guelph's advocacy work on issues that matter to women and our community. All CFUW Guelph members are welcome to attend our meetings and join the discussion.

Pictured are a few of the committee members who participated in the year-end gathering.

Left to right: Liz Fisk, Lyn McLeod, Kate Ciceri, Deb Thompson, Lydia Thomas and Andrea Horton. Missing from photo: Jennifer Mackenzie, Maureen Weaver, Susan Glasauer, Mary McEwen, Penny Hendricks, Jane Cox, and Kim Palazzo

We wish all members a happy and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing everyone again in September, if not before.

Deb Thompson

Chair, Advocacy Committee

CFUW NATIONAL

CFUW Guelph nominated Immigration Services Guelph-Wellington for the CFUW National Library Award, administered by the CFUW National Trust, and the application was successful. We happily presented the cheque for \$4,000 to Lindsay Riddell, their well-being navigator, who will oversee the tutoring program.



Left to Right: Kim Palazzo (who spearheaded the application), Lindsay Riddell, Deb Thompson & Gwen Revington.

CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL



Janet Bruder, Gwen Revington and Susan Brown attended the OC AGM in Peterborough on May 22-23. One of the highlights: Heather Bailey was voted onto the OC board as Treasurer. Congrats Heather!

MEMBER SERVICES

Membership renewal forms will be emailed in **early August**. Please complete, return by email, and complete payment by **September 30th** if you wish to be included in the Blue Book.

Still working? Wanting to join an evening interest group? Please contact Lydia Thomas lydia.woltz@gmail.com so we can get together and discuss ideas and options.

Barbara Kuczynski & Lydia Thomas
Member Services Co-Chairs

CLUB NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Many of our members patronize the *Boathouse*, where they serve tea in real teapots with bone china teacups and often unmatched saucers. Some of us have found that they gladly accept donations of all those teacups we inherited and our kids don't want. Recently, the hiking group visited *A&E Deli* on York Road and were served tea in glass and pottery teapots and prettily painted china teacups and saucers. When complimented on their painted china, they said that some of their customers have actually been stealing them and only a few are left! I asked if they would like a donation of more china teacups and saucers, not necessarily matching, and they were delighted at the idea... so, roust out your extras!

Submitted by Joan Hug-Valeriot

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

ARTS TOURING

Our Arts Touring Group has enjoyed a very successful 2025/2026 year of events which were rich and varied in content and location. At our September 2025 meeting members enthusiastically contributed fresh ideas for activities and helped to organize events. This collaborative planning model ensured our programme stayed vibrant and met the interests of our group.



Summertime by Mary Cassatt, 1894

Our programme included three at-home presentations curated by our members. One presentation was a slide show on the topic of “*Artists who Embraced Colour*” in their work; another was a selection of videos from the Great Courses Series featuring the work of Mary Cassatt, Degas and Renoir; and the third presentation was an instructive video that helped us to understand how artists employ the Principles of Composition when creating their paintings.

We also visited three local galleries. At the Homer Watson Gallery in Kitchener we viewed textile art. Paul Morin welcomed us into his studio in Alton where the paintings of Argentinian artist Lydia Panart were exhibited. We also toured the Alton Mill Studios. At the Art Gallery of Guelph we attended the artist talk given by Frances Thomas entitled “*On Process, Frances Thomas with Ron Shuebrook*”. Furthermore, we visited the home studio of Deb Dryden to view her work and to observe her demonstrate her unique encaustic wax, painting technique. After each event we continued the conversation at a local restaurant or enjoyed at-home fare. We are looking forward to collaborating with our members again to design a programme of events that is exciting, stimulating and relevant to the interests of our group. Please join us at our first planning meeting on September 17th at 2 p.m. 2026 at the home of Connie Valeriotte. Returning and new members are welcome. We ask that you please come with ideas for activities that you would like to see included in our programme of events.

At our September meeting, please also share with us: “*An Art Experience (exhibition, event or art work) that has Inspired You or made You Curious*”. Importantly, just come and enjoy sharing your interest in the arts and friendship.

Happy Summer to you all from the Arts Touring Group Committee:

Maureen Busby-O'Connor, Clare Irwin, Connie Valeriotte

BOOK GROUPS

Looking for a book club? Our book clubs are getting full, so let's start a new one! If you are interested, please contact Lydia Thomas lydia.woltz@gmail.com.

What we are Reading... We have asked Book Club Coordinators to share their reading lists with members- either last season's, or the ones planned for 2026-27; we hope to make this a regular feature of our newsletter. Here are two to get us started:

GDOLS (Guelph Diverse Opinion Literary Society)

2025-26

<i>The Women</i>	Kristin Hannah
<i>The Bookshop</i>	Penelope Fitzgerald
<i>Close to Death: a novel</i>	Anthony Horowitz
<i>Demon Copperhead</i>	Barbara Kingsolver
<i>The Secret Keeper</i>	Genevieve Graham
<i>Unearthed</i>	Alexandra Risen
<i>James</i>	Percival Everett
<i>Station Eleven</i>	Emily St John Mandel
<i>The Bookshop</i>	Penelope Fitzgerald

Submitted by Heather Bailey

2026-27

<i>A Marriage at Sea</i>	Sophie Elmhirst
<i>The Chambermaid's Key</i>	Genevieve Graham
<i>Broken Country</i>	Clare Leslie Hall
<i>Isola</i>	Allegra Goodman
<i>True Biz</i>	Sara Novic
<i>House of Mirth</i>	Edith Wharton
<i>Careless People</i>	Sarah Wynn-Williams
<i>The Sewing Machine</i>	Natalie Fergie
<i>Finding Flora</i>	Elinor Florence

1st Thursday Afternoon Book Group

2025-26

The Giver of Stars
Medicine Walk
More Tales of A Lone Traveller
All the Rage: Stories from the Frontline of Beauty: A History of Pain, Pleasure and Power 1860-1960
Mrs. Van Gogh
Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed and Lost Idealism
Hello Beautiful
submitted by Kerry Detlor

Jo Jo Moyes
 Richard Wagamese
 Lesley Rowe (local author)
 Virginia Nicholson

 Caroline Cauchi
 Sarah Wynn-Williams
 Ann Napolitano

BRIDGE

We have one active duplicate bridge group at present meeting on Monday afternoons in player's homes. Eight regular players are backed up by a list of spares who can fill in when a regular player is ill or on vacation. Since all of our current members are retired, there are many vacations! If you would like to join the list of spares for this group, please contact Claudia Etches cetches5476@gmail.com

There is also interest in starting another regular bridge group with a different day/time, and plans are in the works. Please contact Liz Fisk evfisk5012@rogers.com for more details.

CYCLING

Spring Cycling...



Spring cycling along the Mill Run Trail in Cambridge



Time for a break at Lake Belwood after cycling from Elora. The group welcomes new member, Rita Sharratt

Summer Road Trip along Lake Huron ...



Sarnia cycling excursion members relax for a group photo after a full day of cycling



Cold and Wet conditions!



*Time for some chippies under the Bluewater Bridge
Submitted by Terri Belyea*

KNITTER'S GROUP



A new group started this past winter!

*Pictured from left to right: Brenda Vegaso,
Jo Ann Hayter, Tanis Comrie, Pearl Ho-Tai*

Submitted by Jo Ann Hayter

EXPLORING MUSIC GROUP

The group meets on the first Friday morning of each month, at a member's home. First we exchange information on upcoming concerts. We then either have a speaker, a presentation from a member, or other such as a film on a musical topic. Mid-month, we generally meet for coffee/tea at a favourite café, where there is always lively talk.

We decided to continue from last year with Singing and the Voice, mainly.

October – Cleo Laine

November – Classic opera of 18th century

December – no meeting

January – Gounod

February – Chicago (film)

March – Beethoven's 8th String Quartet

April – Sarah McLachlan

May – Latvian choirs

June – Potluck lunch where we planned for next season

Thank you to all our members who took time to research and present during our Musical year, and to host our meetings.

Submitted by Margaret Hull, Convenor, 2025/6

4th TUESDAY SCRABBLE



From left to right - Marion Manning, Melissa Wilson and Janet Bruder at Susan Brown's house.

Last game until September!

Submitted by Susan Brown

MEET A MEMBER! Contributed by Melodie Wynne

Carole Stewart



Carole Stewart (née Borowski) was born in a hospital in Dauphin Manitoba in 1941 and lived in Winnipegosis, Manitoba until age 3, when her mother, a school teacher, unfortunately died. She then lived in Roblin Manitoba with her father, a lawyer. By the time she finished Grade one, her father had remarried a woman brave enough to take on a spoiled (!) child, the new family had moved to the 'big city' Winnipeg, and the first of three younger brothers was born, just in time for Carole to train for her teenage career as a babysitter. Sadly, only the last of these younger brothers, Bob, still survives; she remains in close touch with him.

Carole completed an honours BA and an MA at the University of Manitoba and a PhD at the University of London, England, all in Philosophy. *"Why study philosophy? I just found the subject fascinating!"* She then returned to Canada to accept a faculty position teaching philosophy at the University of Guelph. *"I was the only female faculty member in Philosophy for some 30 years!"* Carole describes the 'last laugh of her career', when, after years in the classroom, she became an administrator, Department Chair, then Dean of Arts. She says: *"it was mostly people and money management, interesting subjects of their own!"* She was at the U of Guelph for 36 years, until she developed Rheumatoid Arthritis and retired.

At the age of 26, and a fairly new academic, she married U of G colleague Donald (Don) Stewart. She and Don had two interesting daughters: Alison (Ali) and Caroline (Callie). Ali (the elder) now works with non-profits in Toronto and holds the position of *Bicycle Mayor of Toronto!* Younger daughter Callie works for Global Affairs Canada. Carole says *"... she joined the federal government so she could work for the country, perhaps an admirable goal."* In an earlier posting with Global Affairs, Callie met and married a New Zealander. She is now on a four-year posting to the E.U. in Brussels. Neither daughter chose to have children. Sadly, Don passed away 17 years ago; Carole knew him as 'a solid partner' and good father in so many ways, (including doing most of the cooking).

Carole joined CFUW Guelph in 2006, mainly because of the hiking group. She stays a CFUW member because she enjoys the people and has made many friends. Most recently, she suffered a concussion, had stitches, *etc.* after a fall. With her current mobility issues, she is one of the members who luckily can attend General Meetings via Zoom. After joining CFUW, Carole belonged to the Hiking Group for 14 years and also led the group. After she retired (roughly around 2002), Carole joined two book discussion groups: the '2nd Monday' group led by Liz Wagner and the '3rd Monday' group led by Carole Stewart herself! The two groups each give her the opportunity to read a new book each month. She also has community, since each group has about 10 members who discuss and offer different opinions about their books. In addition to interest groups and attending General Meetings on Zoom, Carole was Club Secretary for part of a year in 2012, accepting an opportunity to spend winters with daughter Callie in New Zealand. She has also been a member of the Resolutions Committee.

Outside of CFUW, Carole has devoted most of her ‘volunteer energy’ over 12 years before Covid to the charity Guelph Friends of the Guelph Public Library (<https://fgpl.ca/>). This charity, through its almost 20 yearly book sales, has donated more than \$1.2 million in support of a number of different Guelph Public Library initiatives, including the building of the New Central Library. *“I started just a few months after my husband died; it kept me busy. I worked with CFUW members Virginia Gillham, Nancy Ryan and Carol Herrmann as well as with dozens of other volunteers. I didn’t sort books, but did things like plan the sales floor layout, make sure that the appropriate furniture was in place, and organize volunteers. I stopped working the sale once COVID hit.”*

There was also ‘travel time’ with family; a large part of her life, read-on!

- 2 1/2 years in France, aimed at producing bilingual children (a success!);
- Carole and Don each did a sabbatical year together in Australia;
- three terms in London, England running the Guelph-London Semester;
- a post-retirement pattern of a winter trip to the southern US, alternating with a summer trip to Europe;
- after Don died, trips with a friend to Northern Europe, alternating each year with trips within Canada.

“What keeps me busy in retirement? I’ve already mentioned leading the CFUW hiking group, belonging to two CFUW book discussion groups and of course working the book sale.” Carole also shared that managing her Rheumatoid Arthritis (and tracking the pills!) occupies a fair bit of her time. She enjoys her daughter Ali’s weekend visits; she brings her bicycle on the train to Guelph from Toronto so she can cycle part of the way home. *“I also enjoy doing a ‘Polymath’ crossword (published in the Financial Times) with daughter Callie every Sunday on Zoom.”* Carole also enjoys gardening in the summer (May to October) and grows herbs, flowers and various other plants. Her beautiful and lush garden was on the Guelph Garden Tour in 2011! She adds that what gets her up in the morning is planning her garden, and the tasks that need to be done to keep it healthy and growing, running through her ‘to do’ list and, (I suspect) enjoying a lovely latte she makes for herself, starting with Planet Bean coffee beans.

When asked about her top strengths, Carole offers that she is a learner, an achiever, is responsible, analytical and more. Others have noted: *“we all appreciate her quiet thoughtfulness and optimistic outlook, especially in positions of authority.”*



The **Guelph Line** is published six times a year (September, November, January, March, May and June/July).

Submissions are solicited early in each month of publication

Please submit material to the **Newsletter Editor** email: bcoomber@uoguelph.ca

Club activities and membership details are available online at www.cfuwguelph.org