

Realizing potential. For all women.



The Guelph Line

September, 2026

Water Street Church
287 Water Street, Guelph ON

Business Meeting
Speaker & Wrap-Up

7:00 - 7:45 p.m.
8:00 - 9:15 p.m.

General Meetings will be held in Hybrid format, both in person and on Zoom; the Zoom link will be e-mailed to members the day before each meeting.

If you are able, please come to the meeting. If you need a ride, please contact communicationscfuwguelph@gmail.com.



Monthly General Meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Allison Pinches

Behind the Influence: Lessons from 10 Years in Podcasting



Allison is a producer and researcher with the Apostrophe Podcast Company and works on a variety of shows including: *Under the Influence: With Terry O'Reilly*, *We Regret to Inform You: The Rejection Podcast*, and *Backstage at the Vinyl Cafe*. Allison's lifelong passion for stories has been in the non-profit sector. Originally from Vancouver, Allison now resides in Guelph and – though it's not an ocean – she can often be found happily walking by the river.

Monthly General Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Dr. Kathleen Rodenburg,

The Anatomy of Bad Decisions in Ethical Dilemma Space



Why do seemingly good people, find themselves in the center or as direct contributors to unethical workplace scandals? Partial explanations for pervasive work-place scandals. Dr. Kathleen Rodenburg is the Associate Dean Academic and a University Teaching Leadership Fellow in Workplace Ethics at the Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics. She holds a PhD in economics and experimental economics, an MBA on sustainability and a MA in economics with emphasis on governance.

She has several years of business and industry experience holding senior management positions in the areas of strategy, marketing, sales, supply chain management and finance prior to her academic career. Business has a tremendous influence on society and can provide significant contributions toward the achievement of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Kathleen is focused on teaching practices 'that develop leaders for a sustainable future', service commitments that help the Lang School achieve their vision, 'Business as a Force for Good' and research that supports these aims.

We are pleased to present the Speaker's Program for our 2026-27 season



2026-2027 Program

Water Street Church, 287 Water St., Guelph

Business Meeting - 7:00-7:45pm

Speaker - 8:00-9:15pm

September 22, 2026

Allison Pinches

Behind the Influence: Lessons From 10 Years Podcasting

October 27, 2026

Dr. Kathleen Rodenburg: Assoc. Dean, Lang School of Business, University of Guelph

The Anatomy of Bad Decisions in Ethical Dilemma Space

November 24, 2026

Dominica MacPherson: Guelph Wellington Poverty Elimination Collaborative

From Insight to Impact – Advancing Solutions to Poverty, Housing Affordability, and Homelessness

To be confirmed.

CFUW is a non-profit, non-partisan, self-funded organization working towards the improvement of the status of women and girls, the promotion of quality public education and the advancement of human rights, justice and peace. Membership is open to all women who support these goals.

Guests are welcome at our regular monthly meetings.

For more information visit www.cfuwguelph.org

Email: cfuwguelph@gmail.com

JANUARY 26, 2027

Pauline Curtis

Are We Having Fun?

FEBRUARY 23, 2027

Jeremy Gehl: - Head Gardener Langdon Hall

Seasons at Langdon Hall

March 23, 2027

Dr. Cathryn Spence: Assoc. Professor, Dept of History, University of Guelph

From Merchants to Servants: A Consideration of Women in 16th and 17th Century Scotland

April 27, 2027

Dr. Dawn Bowdish: Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

The Aging Immune System and Infection

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE OFFERED IN A HYBRID FORMAT

May 25, 2027

In-person AGM (Not hybrid)

Judith Nasby: Retired Curator of the Art Gallery of Guelph

The Making of a Museum – The 100-Year History of the Art Gallery of Guelph and the Sculpture Park

If in need of a ride to a meeting or interested in information on joining CFUW Guelph email:

membership.cfuwguelph@gmail.com

**MEETING CANCELLATIONS
WILL BE ANNOUNCED**

- *by email to members*
- *on local radio station*
- *on website after 4pm*
- www.cfuwguelph.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope you all had a satisfying summer with plenty of adventure or relaxation, or an ideal combination of both!

One highlight of the summer for me was attending the National AGM and Conference in Montreal July 20 - 24.

It was a privilege to represent our club, as CFUW Guelph held centre stage for its advocacy and accomplishments. Kate Ciceri was eloquent and persuasive in her presentation of our club's resolution, *Countering Disinformation in Canada*. Read on for more about this in the Advocacy Report!

I accepted two certificates on behalf of our club:



Membership Special Projects Award for our 80th Anniversary Event



Charitable Trust Library Award for Immigrant Services of Guelph Wellington Newcomer Tutoring Support (You may recall that we presented the \$4000 cheque to Immigrant Services in June)

The conference speakers were top notch. Their topics included the following:

- **The application of robotics** in surgery, industrial inspection and repair, and the possibility of water quality monitoring with a soft robotic fish – super interesting science!
- **Gender and AI – Who builds it, who benefits and who gets left out** - Errors in facial recognition systems hurt real people. AI exacerbates social issues that already exist, so the real solution is to address social issues.
- **Bystander intervention to build community care** – This was a very engaging talk illuminating how our own bias is the greatest obstacle to intervening. The speaker provided a spectrum of actions to take depending on the situation, and stressed how the simple step of

making eye contact while checking in with the victim of the bullying after the fact provides support, recognizes pain, and removes blame or shame, which effectively reduces trauma.

• **Advocacy in Action: A Journey of Indigenous Resistance** – Na’kuset spoke about the creation of Resilience Montreal, an inspiring resource centre for unhoused people (<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.7239155>), and about the **Permanent People’s Tribunal** on missing indigenous children and mass graves. (Watch for their upcoming press conference Sept 30).

Contact me if you are interested in delving deeper into any of these topics. I collected a good list of recommended reading!

Other notable news from the AGM:

- Linda Sestock was re-elected as National President for 2026-28
- The resolution proposed by CFUW Ottawa, *Canadian Response to the Education Crisis in Afghanistan*, was also adopted
- All motions related to the National bylaws were adopted. Details are covered in the **National Club Action News** (Subscribe to receive *Club Acton News* as a weekly email here: <https://members.cfuw.org/club-action-newsletter>)

I’ll be sharing with our executive ideas gained from discussions with members of other clubs as we continue to promote activities that vitalize our club and contribute to our community.

We’ll all be enjoying the reconnections as our interest groups resume and welcoming the routines of autumn!

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

ADVOCACY



Advocacy Update: From Resolution to Action

On behalf of the Advocacy Committee, welcome back! We hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. As we begin a new CFUW year, there is much to look forward to in Advocacy, with new ideas to explore and opportunities to become involved.

And what better way to begin than with some good news! 🎉 **CFUW Guelph’s resolution, Countering Disinformation in Canada, was adopted with very strong support at the CFUW National AGM in Montreal in July.**

The resolution grew out of many months of research, discussion and writing by the four members of our Advocacy Working Group, with support and encouragement from our Advocacy

Committee, Executive and CFUW Guelph members along the way. The strong support it received from CFUW members across Canada is an exciting achievement for our whole club.

The resolution calls for greater accountability for digital platforms, stronger media literacy education in our schools, public education about recognizing and assessing disinformation and continued support for reliable Canadian journalism.



Kate Ciceri presents the resolution on disinformation at the CFUW National AGM

So, what comes next?

Adoption of our resolution is an important first step. Now we can begin thinking about how to turn the goals of the resolution into meaningful action. Possibilities include speakers or workshops, sharing resources, working with other CFUW clubs and community organizations, speaking with elected representatives and raising questions about disinformation with candidates during elections.

Our Advocacy Committee will be talking with other clubs and, importantly, with our own members about what some of these ideas might look like in practice. **What actions could we take as individuals and what could we accomplish together as a club?**

Everyone is welcome at our Advocacy meetings. You don't need to be a member of the committee to join us. Come when you can, share your ideas and add your voice to the conversation.

Advocacy meets on the second Thursday of each month, except December, June, July and August. Interested in joining us? Email me at debthompson@rogers.com for meeting details and location.

*Submitted by Deb Thompson
Chair, Advocacy Committee*

ARCHIVES

With a great sense of accomplishment, the Archives Committee completed the sorting and organizing of material collected over the past approximately 20 years, distilled down to 4 bankers' boxes.

In mid-July we delivered them to the Guelph Public Library, which was pleased to add to our precious history for permanent safekeeping in their Archives. We then marked the occasion with a celebratory lunch at Bardo. *Thank you, Mary!*



(l to r) Nancy Ryan (CFUW Guelph Archivist), Darcy Hiltz (Guelph Public Library Archivist), Mary McEwen (past CFUW Guelph Archivist), Janet Bruder, Gwen Revington

MEMBER SERVICES

Please renew your membership by **September 30** if you haven't done so already. There will be another opportunity to sign up for interest groups at the September 22 general meeting.

Submitted by Barbara Kuczynski

TREASURER

As of Sept 11, 2026, sixty-three members have sent payment for their 2026-27 dues; 48 by e-transfer and 15 by cheque and many members have also made extra donations to both our Scholarship and Community Connections funds. More information on totals will be provided after our September 30 renewal deadline.

The funds allocated from our Community Connections fund this year (collected in 2025-26) total \$1600.60; \$1000 for our ongoing partnership with Chalmers Centre and \$600.60 available in our 'One-time Activity fund' for short term projects. If you have an idea for the one-time funds, please

see p 56 of our **Policies and Procedures** document for information and the application format:
https://cfuwguelph.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/P-and-P-Final_-2024.pdf

Submitted by Heather Bailey

CLUB NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUILT SHOWS AND CLASSES

I am having a solo art quilt show at the 10C gallery in October, in the ground floor and also the 3rd floor gallery. One show, entitled “*Seasons*” is on the ground floor.



Canadian Seasons (2018; close up above), has been part of a SAQA (Studio Art Quilts Associate) Global Exhibition, entitled “*Season After Season*” and has been exhibited at the Texas Quilt Museum and the European Quilt Meeting in France, before COVID shut everything down. Unfortunately, it languished in storage for most of its intended 3 years of planned travel but now I have it back again.

I was also invited to fill some walls after a tenant left on the 3rd floor...and that show will be a “*Retrospective*”. It will feature “*The Ghosts of Heritage Past*” (2004) which was created when the Loretto Convent was being threatened with demolition. I was pushing for it to take on a new life as our Guelph Civic Museum and shopped the little wall-hanging around to politicians and galleries quite a bit, until finally Karen Farquharson was able to get some financing from other levels of government, and a public fund-raising effort went above and beyond the fund-raising goal.



The old buildings printed in black and white on silk organza are layered over the new “shoe-boxes” that replaced them. (see above).

The opening date for this show is October 1st and the artist’s reception is on Saturday, Oct 17th from 3:00-5:00. Closing date is October 30th.

And, in November, I am offering a three-day workshop at the newly refurbished café area in the south end of the Farmers’ Market on the first three Thursdays, 5th, 12th and 19th, from 9 – 4.

The workshop is for Confident Beginners and Intermediate quilters/sewists, to create either a scrappy quilt top or a wall-hanging in the Shaded 4-patch pattern. A supply list is available through 10C

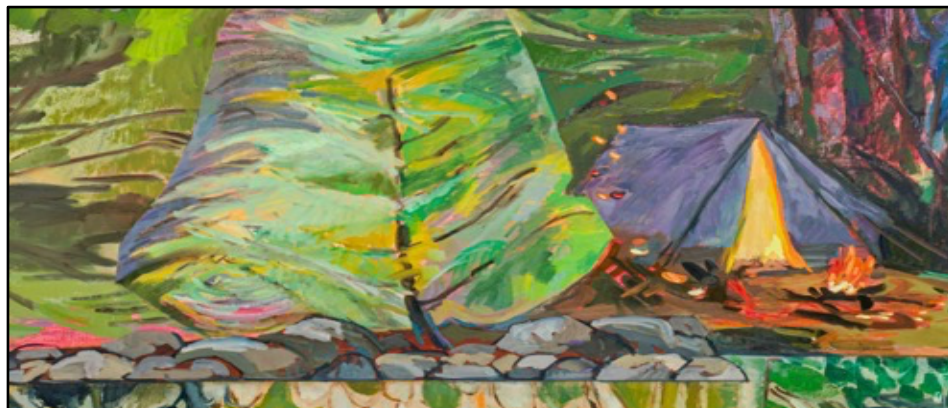
For more information, please contact Victoria@10carden.ca

Submitted by Joan Hug-Valeriotte

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

ARTS TOURING GROUP

Our first meeting of the Arts Touring Group, held in September 2026, was well attended and highly successful. We welcomed new members, listened to members’ suggestions for future events and created a varied programme of monthly activities for the year ahead. Some members talked about an artwork or an art experience that inspired them or made them curious. We encourage member participation, welcome fresh ideas and we are open to possibilities. Our events encompass visits to art galleries, artists’ studios, art movies, guest presenters and members sharing their own creative work.



Our planning committee met over the summer and incorporated into our meeting a visit to the Art Gallery of Guelph to see the “*Windfall Light*” exhibition curated by Shauna McCabe. Works by Monica Tap were included.

Monica Tap, *Summer Camp* (detail), 2021, oil on canvas.

We found the exhibition enlightening and inspiring. We are all looking forward to a good year ahead.

Submitted by Maureen Busby-O’Connor, Clare Irwin, Connie Valeriotte

1st THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

We are pleased to share our book selections for 2026-27!

Deep House by Thomas King

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

The Black Wolf by Louise Penny

Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton

Submitted by Kerry Detlor

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

MEET A MEMBER! Contributed by Melodie Wynne



Liz Fisk

Liz Fisk, the daughter of Polish immigrants, was born in St. Catharines and has two brothers. Though working part-time as a Bell Telephone Directory Assistance operator during high school Liz graduated as one of only 11 Ontario Scholars that year. One of Liz's first acts of civil advocacy was carrying placards at a demonstration in 1969 trying to persuade Premier Bill Davis to employ the principles of fairness and equity and extend educational funding to grade 13.

Liz spent two years at McMaster University in Hamilton, studying business and political science. Since she was self-funding her university education, she took a gap-year and continued her business courses at night at Brock University. There she met her future husband. Marrying in 1977, Liz joined Dave in London, Ontario when he took his first post-graduation job selling pharmaceuticals.

That gap year turned into a 'gap-decade', while Liz and Dave had three sons over the next 11 1/2 years. She took time off after each son was born and continued her part-time studies, later returning to full-time employment. During that period, the couple moved to Guelph and Liz worked in progressively more responsible accounting and managerial positions.

Higher education was always important to Liz, and she focused on obtaining a CGA (Certified General Accounting) designation and continued business, economics and political science studies at the University of Guelph. Now the mother of three, Derek, Graham and Gavin, she finally graduated in 1989 and tells a cute story about graduation day. When her name was called and she walked up to accept her diploma, her 2-year-old son cried out in the hushed hall, "That's my Mom!" Everyone laughed.

Liz accepted a position in the Ontario Public Service (OPS), managing general accounting and finances for a regional office. Several secondments followed, both locally and at Queen's Park in

the ADM's office. She completed her paid employment, after 12 years as the Executive Director of Distress Centres Ontario (DCO). This provincial association supports organizations that provide text and telephone-based support to individuals in distress, crisis or considering suicide. Liz was instrumental in securing funding for a national crisis/distress/suicide telephone and text service which we now know as 9-8-8. She also led the planning of many conferences. Her favorite keynotes include Bob Rae and Andre Picard. She also developed an on-line teaching tool (Learning Forums) to provide training for volunteer phone and text responders.

Liz has been a CFUW member for over 25 years, initially in Guelph, then for 10 years in Grimsby, when, as empty nesters, she and Dave decided to live on the lake and enjoy their boat. However, enjoying time with their grandchildren drew them back to Guelph. Currently, Liz belongs to several interest groups, including Bridge (and is helping start a Learn to Play Bridge group), Scrabble, 2nd Monday (Virginia Gillham) Book Club, Scribblers, and Gardening. *"I very much enjoy the Book Club; I read books I would never would have discovered and enjoy hearing diverse analyses and opinions."*

In the 1990's, Guelph Civic Affairs submitted a resolution advocating for amending Section 43 of the criminal code, the Anti-Spanking Law that Liz defended at the AGM in Calgary. She was also part of the organizing Committee for the 2000 CFUW National AGM in Guelph called Open Doors. The keynote was Flora McDonald. Liz was CFUW Guelph's President in 1999 and 2000 and is the incoming 2026-2027 VP of CFUW Guelph. *"I see my role on the CFUW executive as a 'placeholder' position, supporting younger women as they grow into and take on more leadership roles in the Club."*

Outside of CFUW, Liz has volunteered with numerous groups over the years. They include the United Way, various sporting associations, a St. Paul's School program volunteer, and as a Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation canvasser. She has also been a Board Member and/or Chair of numerous organizations including Family and Children's Services, Guelph Minor Hockey Association, Guelph Police Services Board, Wyndham House, Hospice Wellington, Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium and the Rotary Club of Grimsby.

While in Grimsby, Liz initiated a partnership between the Town of Grimsby and the local Rotary Club creating the **Grimsby Glows Pumpkin Parade** ([grimsbyglows](https://www.grimsbyglows.com/)). During COVID, she partnered with many Grimsby community organizations and ran weekly lunch time Zoom meetings with guest speakers to provide their members with feeling of togetherness when they couldn't see each other.

Currently, Liz serves as Co-chair of **Tour de Guelph**. The community cycling event for all ages and abilities, recently hosted over 900 cyclists and generated \$233,500 in donations to the Foundation of the Guelph General Hospital, and local Rotary supported not-for-profits and charities.

Liz has been acknowledged for her Community Service:

- *YM/YWCA Woman of Distinction Award* recipient: Voluntary, Humanitarian, Community Service Category
- *Family and Children's Services Honorary Life Membership* recipient

- *Paul Harris Fellowship* recipient: Rotary Club of Guelph Wellington and Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium

Liz states, “*I am not retired, I am now just enjoying ‘non-paid labour’!*” In her spare time, she spends time with family, friends, travel and of course CFUW committees and interest groups. “*What gets me up in the morning? Life!*”. When asked about her top strengths, Liz responds “*I’d call myself a connector. I’m also loyal and once I commit to things, I see them through. When I’m faced with a challenge, I look for a different way forward.*” Others would add determination and self-confidence. And someone added, “*Wow, Liz is one really smart gal!*”

When asked why volunteering is so important to her, Liz relates a story from her childhood. “*My dad had a heart attack in 1963 and couldn’t work. The family became poor, and we received a very kind \$100 donation which we spent on groceries and children’s presents for Christmas. We were completely heartbroken when all the groceries and presents were stolen from our car on Christmas Eve. However, our church members heard the news and quickly brought food, and gifts for us.*”

This is how Liz learned about ‘giving back’. She now helps others and Pays it Forward, and with kindness.



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