



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

PERTH AND DISTRICT - Working together for women and girls

2010 – 2011 Our Year in Review

*The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper.
Let us celebrate the remarkable achievements of our club throughout 2010-2011!*

Our CFUW Goals

- **The pursuit of knowledge**
- **The promotion of education for all**
- **The improvement of the status of women**
 - **The protection of human rights**
- **The encouragement of active participation in public affairs in a spirit of cooperation and friendship**



Anne Neil, President's Report – May 2011

“The Right to Speak – The Responsibility to Act”

This past year was the 40th Anniversary of the Perth and District CFUW club. As a result, many of our events and projects were designed to honour and/or commemorate the work of the club since its beginning. One project was the development of a club history book titled “**Reflections of the Past**”; another was the development of a cookbook based on the Gourmet Club’s favorite menus and recipes, “**From Our Homes to Yours**”—dedicated to one of our 40-year members who was a driving force behind the Gourmet Club.

We began the year by hosting the Fall Gathering for Ontario East with a theme of “**Reflections of the Past - Inspiration for the Future**”. The major fundraising project of the year was the **Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour** that generated over \$20,000 for providing enhanced education opportunities in the community. Perth also celebrated the results of several advocacy projects: successfully introducing an “**Anti-idling Bylaw**”; inviting the public to a conference on “**Opiates - Use and Abuse**”; an International Women’s Day event focused on “**Equal access to Education**” with \$500 in proceeds donated to Care Canada's Zambia project; and an environment project to raise awareness of water quality in Perth called “**Treasuring the Tay**”.

This is the summary I have sent to CFUW Ontario Council and National to be included in their AGM reports.

We have accomplished **so** much in one year and I take my hat off to you. I know we all have busy lives but to accomplish this much in one year is something to be really proud of and feel good about. With our membership ever increasing, we have so much talent within our club that I am not surprised by these accomplishments. Many of our new members stepped forward and took the challenge with new energy and ideas and that is what makes us such a popular club and success story. Thanks to all our publicity, our profile and footprint in Perth and District is very well known, respected and solid.

As President of CFUW Perth and District it has been my pleasure to work with you all and the wonderful committees and volunteers who have put together such a wonderful year. The development of a Standing Committee on the Status of Women will hopefully bring about changes and improvement with regards to “Violence against Women”. I will also be challenging the new Government to include women and equality on their agenda. I will be attending the Ontario Council AGM on May 13th and 14th in Oakville where the focus will be on the “Four Pillars of Poverty”.

I am also hoping to attend the National AGM in St. John’s, Newfoundland. Since Brenda Wallace, the new National President, has taken over, many changes have been introduced which will be raised and approved at the AGM in August. One of the major changes has been a personal priority—one that affects the Constitution. Along with the national membership chair I have been focused on redefining and clarifying the

qualifications for membership to make CFUW more inclusive. Once this change is approved, our team will begin the updates required for our National Constitution and Strategic Plan for approval at next year's AGM.

I have also been working closely with other CFUW club presidents to ensure we have consistent objectives and goals and to help each other where we can—we try to make sure that clubs can benefit from the experiences of the others—rather than spending time reinventing the wheel.

The following reports will speak for themselves. I am looking forward to seeing you all at our AGM and over the summer and hope to see you all back again in the Fall with lots of good ideas to share, stories to tell and a strong desire to learn and to give back.

THE PRESIDENT'S RECAP OF 2010-2011

August

- Attended the National AGM in Ottawa and presented “Fun and Fundraising” with Donna Morrow and Susan Roach
- Learned that our efforts to promote an anti-idling bylaw in Perth, begun in 2007, had finally culminated in the passage of a Town by-law

September

- Our season opener—the Pot Luck Dinner – where potential, new and existing members became reacquainted after the summer break
- Membership payments accepted and Interest Groups introduced.
- Launched two publications, each of which sells for \$15.00:
- Our 40th Anniversary History Book, "Reflections of the Past, a telling of CFUW's past and present", by Anne Neil
- “From Our Homes to Yours” – our 40th Anniversary Cook Book, developed by a team led by Karen Hickey, based on recipes from our Gourmet Club and dedicated to Anne Bradley, a CFUW member for over 40 years.

October

- Our general meeting, open to the public, featured guest speaker Ramsay Hart, from Mining Watch Canada, who spoke about mining rights in Canada and some of the problems faced in Perth. A small donation was provided to him for research.

- Hosted the Ontario East Fall Gathering on October 23 as part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, with the theme "Reflections of the Past, Inspiration for the Future". Guest speakers were:
 - Lana March, CFUW member 1985 and ex-mayor of Perth;
 - Monique Tougas, Past President of CFUW Kanata and new RD for Ontario East;
 - Marylea Burt, National Membership Chair and 40-year member of CFUW Belleville;
 - Ardith Toogood - Past National President and IFUW Coordinator;
 - Caecilia J. van Peski – UN Women’s Representative “Women, Peace and Security”; and
 - Carol Ann Cole, our keynote speaker “Women of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”

NOVEMBER

- Displayed the talent of some of our members in an arts and crafts display, in preparation for a sale in December.
- Collected Toonies for the Charitable Trust in memory of the Montreal Massacre, and forwarded \$100. to the Trust.
- Another meeting, open to the general public, featured guest speaker Sarah Bingham, of Lanark Interval House who spoke about “Working to End Violence Against Women”. A small donation was given to Interval House and we established a Standing Committee on the “Status of Women”.

Lanark County Interval House, located in Carleton Place, offers shelter and support services to women and their children who are threatened by abuse and gender-based violence.

DECEMBER

- Featured our major fund-raiser, the 5th Annual Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour, led by Lois Perreault and team. A net profit of approximately \$25,000. was attained.
- The Christmas dinner celebration at the Perth Golf Course featured a sale of members’ craft-ware and 10% of the sales were donated to the club, resulting in a \$120 donation to the Perth Academy of Musical Theatre.

JANUARY 2011

- The general meeting, developed by the Advocacy Committee, was open to the public and featured a panel discussion--Opiates: Use and Abuse. Elisabeth Kuiper, committee chair, introduced the panel:

- Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health for Lanark/Leeds/Grenville;
- David North, Executive Director – TRICAS;
- Dr. Elaine Riddick, Westport Physician;
- Rebecca Bellamy, Pharmacist, Perth Pharmasave, and
- Jennifer Barr, Program Consultant for the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health, the moderator of the meeting.

FEBRUARY

- A Valentine Tea social was held Feb. 14 for new members. Participants donated new underwear, towels, cosmetics and for Lanark Interval House.
- Stephanie Smart from Dignity House Hospice provided an outline of the progress of the group and their hopes for the future. Perth does not have a long term care solution and it is not provided for by the government. Most Canadian's do not have enough pension or insurance money to cover these costs and many have to spend the last days of their lives in a hospital. A small donation was given to this charity.

"The Mission of Dignity House Hospice is to assist individuals who reside in Lanark County, and are diagnosed with life-limiting illnesses to live life as fully as possible while maintaining their dignity and comfort, as well as to provide support to their families and loved ones."

March

- Our annual International Women's Day event was held in Smiths Falls on March 12th. The event was organized by The Status of Women Committee, led by Jeela Jones, based on the theme "Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women". The program included inspirational speakers, live entertainment, treats and raffles, concluding with a wine and cheese social. A donation of \$500 was given to Care Canada for their Zambia office.
- The general meeting, Resolutions Night, involved assessment and recommendations relative to Resolutions provided by National.

April

- A special open meeting, organized by Peggy Land of the Environment Committee had the theme: Treasuring the Tay. Moderated by Debra Bellevue of Royal Bank, the panel included:
 - Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health and CEO District Health Unit
 - Patrick Larson, Senior Water Resource Technician, Rideau Valley Conservation

- Carol Dillon, Friends of the Tay Watershed
- Grant Machon, Manager of Environmental Services, Perth
- Alfred Von Mirbach, EcoPerth and
- John McKenty, Stewart Park Festival

May

- Education Awards of \$17,000 will be presented at a special tea.
- Donations to local libraries and literacy programs of approximately \$2000 will be awarded.
- AGM is celebrated at Maximilian's in Perth to review 2010-2011 year and welcome new nominees to the executive.

June

- Annual Bike Run Bake Sale held at the Last Duel Park for the Ottawa Bicycle Club's Rideau Lakes Tour which includes over 3000 riders and usually nets a profit of \$1,500 - \$2000, used to fund our administration expenses.

The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, not to worry about the future, or not to anticipate troubles, but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly." Buddha.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

(Pat Bertrim)

- Committee members included: Chris McGuire, Helen Rutledge, Clare McCartney, Jackie Boyer and Pat Bertrim

Officers for 2011-12

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| President | Anne Neil | Past President | <i>Leave of Absence</i> |
| Vice President | Brenda Ethier | Secretary | Karen Hickey |
| Treasurer | Elaine Mackay | Membership* | Isabel Joyce |

*New Member Liaison: Karen Schooley; Membership Assistant: Pam Jamieson
(these positions do not have to be elected by the members)

Standing Committee Chairs 2011-12

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Publicity | Jackie Boyer | Program | Diana Bracegirdle |
| Hospitality* | Gerda Hearty | Newsletter | Barb Mingie |
| Status of Women | Anne Neil | Interest Groups* | Pat Gurney |
| Fund-Raising* | By Chairs of each event | Education, Literacy & the Arts | By Chairs of each group |
| Environment | Peggy Land | Archives* | Sandra Beacock |

- Hospitality Chair will be assisted by the following volunteers:
 - September Potluck - Committee
 - Christmas Dinner – Chris McGuire
 - AGM 2012 – Jackie Boyer
- Interest Groups Chair will be assisted by Marlene Gordon
- Fund-Raising will be managed by:
 - House Tour – Karen Hickey
 - Spring Event – Vacant
 - Bike Run – Christine Cordick

Note: Assistant and Fund-raising chair positions are not elected and are not members of the Executive although they can be asked to attend Executive meetings.

- According to the Club’s Constitution, notice of the slate of officers and committee chairs being proposed for the new executive must be given to club members at least seven days in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Your nomination committee here presents the list with positions still vacant. You are encouraged to nominate a member for any of the above positions or to volunteer to fill one that is still vacant.
- Ideally each nominee would hold the position for two years.
- If no other nominations are received at the Annual General Meeting, you will be asked to approve the above names on Monday, May 16, 2011.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Elaine Mackay)

Financial Summary to May 1, 2011

This was another successful year for our Club!

We began the year with \$2,570 in the bank and a GIC of \$10,000.

In terms of income, projects initiated this year stayed within budget and raised enough money to cover their expenses. Our major fundraiser, the Heritage House Tour, was a huge success, surpassing last year by 9%. Both the History Book to commemorate our 40th Anniversary and the Cook Book sold well. Thirty-nine History Books were sold last year; that leaves 55 for purchase. We have sold over 140 copies of our Cookbook; if we sell 36 more we will cover our printing costs. The exhibit and sale of members' handmade crafts and artistic products at our Christmas dinner was a new initiative this year. The artists generously donated a portion of their sales to the Club which we donated to a local theatre academy to support workshops for youth. Our International Women's Day event, although planned more as a celebration than a fundraiser, raised enough money that we were able to send a donation of \$500 to the CARE Canada Zambia field office.

Looking at our Club expenses, there were several areas such as Hospitality and Discretionary where we did not spend our planned allocation, so funds were reallocated elsewhere. (For example, in March we received a late invoice for last year's Spring Fling.) Under Member Education, we helped with travel costs so that we were represented at the CFUW National AGM and the Ontario Council meeting. Hosting our successful Fall Gathering generated \$1,640; however our costs exceeded our revenue by \$193. The income from the Christmas Dinner and the Resolutions meetings covered most of their costs.

In summary, total expenses for the Club this year were \$7,296, offset by revenue of \$4,453. With the carry-over from last year, plus the funds remaining after paying national and provincial membership dues, plus 10% of the House Tour revenue, all expenses were covered and our balance was \$25,641. This amount was higher than expected, so the Executive Committee increased the allocation for awards to students continuing their education. In addition, the Club donated \$2,250 to local organizations involved in youth literacy as well as another \$900 to Interval House, Dignity House, and other local needs. We also donated to the national CFUW Charitable Trust *1989 Ecole Polytechnique Commemorative Award*. Assuming the full allocation for the Education Awards will be distributed, the Club will have \$4,721 remaining in the account. And the year isn't over yet: our final fundraiser, the Bike Tour, takes place in just a few weeks! What a successful year! Congratulations everyone!

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Status of Women Advocacy Committee: (Anne Neil)

Early this year, we began a Status of Women Committee. In our initial meetings, we discussed the many possible aspects of this committee and decided to focus on three main issues.

Locally: We know there are many situations locally where women and children need help. We invited a speaker from Lanark Interval House to help us understand what is happening in Lanark County. There is a definite need here and much we can do to help. In February, we held a Valentine's Day Tea where all members, especially new ones, were welcomed to come and enjoy a cup of tea and at the same time bring a donation to go to the Interval House. As Valentine's Day was coming up - we focused our donations on new underwear, towels and toiletries. We also gave sweets and treats for them to enjoy. Club members donated three large laundry baskets and two large boxes full of goodies. Interval House staff were very thankful and most appreciative but we know it is only a drop in the bucket for a very large problem. We plan to coordinate future events to help and have invited members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director to communicate with us and help direct us to where we can be of the best use.

Nationally: We wanted to look into the poor standards of living and education of First Nations women and children. Unfortunately we have not had time to focus on this issue yet.

Internationally: What can we do to help women and children internationally? A focus of CFUW National and Care Canada was Zambia. "Empower women and girls in Zambia to fight poverty!" In Zambia more than 70 percent of the population lives on less than a dollar a day, 15 percent of the population is living with HIV/AIDS, and the average life expectancy is 38. Women and girls are the ones most affected by the issues of poverty in Zambia. They are more likely to be sexually and physically abused, infected by HIV and stigmatized, and are more likely to drop out of school because they fall pregnant at a young age or have to stay at home to look after family members living with HIV/AIDS. CARE develops and implements innovative programs that address the root causes of gender inequality and poverty in Zambia by empowering women and girls with the skills, tools and services they need to become self-sufficient, stand up for their rights and build better lives for themselves and their communities. We formed a special committee within our group and began working on this and a focus on International Women's Day. Jeela Jones led this committee and the results were a fantastic event held in Smiths Falls on March 12th, 2011 and a cheque for \$500 going to Care Canada's Zambia project.

We are still a small group on this committee but we have great hopes. We invite any member of CFUW to join us and help us help women and children locally, nationally and internationally.

Environment Committee (Peggy Land)

Members: Peggy Land, chair, Barbara Long, Suzette MacSkimming, Louise McDiarmid, Helen Rutledge, Caroline Wilson.

In September our request for an anti-idling bylaw was accepted by Perth Town Council. This followed the first request two years prior. We agreed to help out with the six month education campaign before the bylaw comes into effect in July. Bookmarks with anti-idling information were produced by the Town, in collaboration with us and EcoPerth. We have given out about 700 hundred already at Maple Fest and local schools. People seem happy to get this information. We have presented our interactive skit about idling and given out bookmarks to the grade four classes in two local schools with plans to present in two more schools.

We have continued with tips-of-the -month in the Newsletter, on subjects including buying local (farmers market), non-toxic bath cleaning, saving paper when printing, avoiding toxics in plastic containers, and more.

In January we partnered with Friends of the Tay Watershed to show a film called Water on the Table, a film featuring water-warrior Maude Barlow. This was a well-attended event held at the Myriad Centre for the Arts.

In April we approached Council with a request to post informational signage along the Tay regarding elevated E-coli levels in the water. Unfortunately this request was later rejected on the grounds that “such signage might scare people away from moving here” but some interest was expressed by two Councilors in actually cleaning up the river. In May our theme for the General Meeting which was also well attended by the public, was “Treasuring the Tay: What will it take to make it safe for swimming again, Why does it matter?” Our panel of 6 local experts spoke and it was confirmed that there is a problem in that about half the time “you wouldn’t want to be in the water” and that there are many ways to help clean up the river. A follow-up Round Table was suggested by the Town’s representative to look into these suggestions and explore the reasons for the steady increase in E-coli levels. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paula Stewart thanked us for raising the issue as a citizens’ group, and she will be helping with messaging about the dangers of swimming in the Tay during the up-coming Stewart Park Festival.

We very much appreciate the strong support we have received for our efforts from the Executive and from the general membership. Thank you!

Publicity (Jackie Boyer)

Since last September many press releases have been written, focused on increasing the awareness of CFUW among the general public—for our mandate and the strong role we play in the community. These releases are sent to local newspapers, the local

radio station, and to several 'free' Coming Events vehicles. Articles have also been used to promote special general meetings which have been open to the public and to cover special programs such as the annual Education Awards. Although Press Releases are printed by the local newspapers only when space permits, we have been able to generate significant coverage in the past year. This approach has helped increase our membership and knowledge about what we do.

CFUW's major fundraising event, the Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour generates substantial media coverage which is effectively handled by the House Tour Committee. Another major event, made possible by those Christmas House Tour funds, is the annual Educational Awards program which is promoted in all local newspapers through press releases and paid advertisements, advising potential recipients of rules and regulations and entry deadline dates. The Publicity Chair is responsible for this media plan and also the follow-up article and photograph.

Advocacy Committee (Elisabeth Kuiper)

Last year the Advocacy Committee was focused and goal-oriented. It was the intent of the committee to raise awareness, and educate the community about the abuse and implications of prescribing or taking Prescription Opioids such as Oxycontin and how it affects not only individuals but also the community. We held a very successful public forum, introducing a panel of experts in the fields of medicine and drug abuse as well as a documentary -- Prescription for Addiction. Attendance was more than expected at 140. The event was publicized in local media before and after it took place.

Fundraising: (Lynne Stockless)

At the request of the Executive a survey on fundraising directions and opportunities was conducted in September and October of 2010 generating a response rate of approximately 60%. The results were compiled and shared with the entire membership in November.

Responses indicated that a large spring event be held every second year. Therefore the Executive recommended that a spring event be held in 2012 rather than in 2011. There were some very interesting suggestions that may form the basis of that event. An organizing committee will be set up early in the fall; a great chance for new members to become involved.

In December the House Tour exceeded previous year's fundraising, due in large part to the organization and leadership of the committee and to the exceptional participation by the membership. Lois Perreault, Chair of the House Tour committee, will provide a separate report.

The International Women's Day Centenary event organized by Jeela Jones, a new member, provided an opportunity to raise funds for an international cause to further

education of women through CARE Canada. Thanks to the help of Brenda Ethier, Maggie Leach and Diana Bracegirdle, the "I Want That Prize" draw was well organized and quite popular, with 14 prize groupings which had been generously donated by local businesses and members.

Throughout the year used book and magazine sales have been a regular part of our meetings thanks to another new member, Pat Gurney and her helpers.

As the days grow warmer, we are anticipating our next big fundraiser, the Bake Sale for the Bike Run through Perth on June 11 and 12. We are very fortunate to have another new member, Christine Cordick assume the leadership of this committee. The support and participation of all of the members of our club is essential to make this event a success. We hope for sunny skies that weekend.

The financial report given by Elaine McKay details the funds raised to date by each of these events and the donations and education awards that have been given as a result.

It has been a pleasure being a part of the executive this year and to work with the incredibly talented women in our club. Although other priorities preclude my continuation in this role next year I look forward to participating in all of the exciting events that are a part of Perth and District CFUW

Fifth Annual CFUW Heritage Perth Christmas House Tour (Lois Perreault)

The House Tour is the biggest fund raiser for our chapter, requiring a lot of work and the cooperation of many people. As I looked through the hundreds of email to prepare this report, I still marvel at the dedication of so many, which resulted in another huge success for the event that has become one of the public faces of CFUW, not only in our area but beyond.

We were fortunate to once again benefit from the good will of wonderful home owners willing to welcome over 1000 guests into their houses over the course of 2 days! We cannot thank our home owners enough for allowing us to showcase their beautiful houses. Selected homes were grouped to make it easy for guests to walk between venues, and included both heritage and newer properties. Four of nine homes on the tour are owned by CFUW members, including Jackie Boyer; Linda Hughes Bond and husband Jim; Pat Patterson; and Sue Brown and husband Jeff. Thanks also to home owners Judy and Steve Cross; Doug McCue; Barbara and Eric Halpin; Julie and Neil Graham; and Nevis Estate owners Jenny Ross and Mark Rogers.

The 2010 Tour netted just shy of \$25,000.00, which will fund our Chapter's educational projects and contribute to club administration over the coming year. Each of you should be proud of the part you played in this success. At least 75 chapter members volunteered during the tour, and I know those who were unable to be physically present supported it in many ways, including encouraging friends and associates to buy tickets!

Our volunteers were led by a talented group of House Captains who organized their teams to present an educational and entertaining tour of each home. They are: Jane Conley and Barb Mingie; Sylvia Mainguy and Christine McGuire; Pat Foulkes and Pat Gourlay; Elisabeth Kuiper; Barb Whitehouse and Maggie Leach; Adele Mayers and Diane Gunning; Karen Schooley and Lynne Stockless; Barbara Hogg and Caroline Wilson; Peggy Land and Donna Morrow.

The community supported our tour by sponsoring us with cash donations and by donating services and goods. Tour expenses were mostly covered by cash donations, and supporters contributed a wide range of necessary items, which included flower arrangements, restaurant gift certificates for home owners and signs directing visitors to houses.

Every member of the House Tour Committee deserves high praise for a job well done. Josie Roberts led the search for houses, which resulted in a wonderful variety of homes to visit. Karen Hickey marketed and promoted the tour through the media. Anne Ball managed sponsorship appeals and donations. Donna Morrow was in charge of Team Captains and volunteers. Jackie Boyer led supporter appeals and coordinated their donations. Muriel Turner organized and oversaw ticket sales. Barb Hewitt managed multiple tour day details and the reception for home owners. In addition to these responsibilities, committee members handled many other details and contributed to every decision made to ensure the tour was a success. As chairperson I cannot say enough about this wonderful team and the support they gave me.

Every year we learn from our experiences, and I am sure next year's tour will be even better. The 2011 team is already meeting under the leadership of Karen Hickey, with Jackie Boyer as the 2012 chair in waiting. With over 100 talented and able women in our chapter to help, I am sure our signature fund raiser will continue to enjoy success in the years ahead.

Education, Literacy and the Arts (Barbara Whitehouse and Helen Rutledge)

Begun in September 2008, the **Ready 2 Read Program** expanded this year to include all children from birth to grade 1 who feed into Glen Tay School. Due to popular demand, all kindergarten children received a book package, not stopping when the child turns five.

Managed by club members Pat Bertrim, Jan Fisher, Helen Rutledge, Barbara Whitehouse, Caroline Wilson and Tania Mason (a learning resource teacher at Glen Tay School), the purpose is to foster a love of books and reading. Our project is modeled on a very successful program which was started at Maple Grove School in Lanark County almost 20 years ago by primary teachers concerned with the early speech and language development for all children. Once a month each child receives a free book package which includes a book, a newsletter which suggests family

activities, simple writing and math activities and a treat. Caroline Wilson finds fabulous ideas for activities that parents and their child can do together to include in the newsletter she writes every month.

The program was kick started with money from the CFUW's education fund and the club continues to support this vital CFUW program. Every month during the past year book packages were given to each of 40 children, including July and August. Glen Tay School received letters from parents thanking them for this program saying how much their child looks forward to the day they receive the books. Researchers estimate that over the lifetime of participants in an early literacy intervention program, returns to the public are \$7.16 for every dollar invested (*Schweinhart et al.*, 1993). This is a good multiplier of the money donated by the club to this program.

We will continue to apply for grants and accept donations. Arrangements have been made for donors to receive a tax receipt. Thank you for the enthusiasm you have shown for our project. We think it is a great fit with the goals of our club. Research shows children have a better chance of becoming fully literate adults if reading is encouraged in the home (*Literacy BC*). The children who begin our program at birth will have a library of 60 books by the time they are 5 years old.

Our CFUW group provides readers at three elementary schools to support the Perth Rotary **Community Readers** program. Our members visit their particular school each week to read to the students, and then students read to us. There are four readers in a grade one class at Glen Tay, three readers in a grade three class at Maple Grove in Lanark, and another two readers in grade three at Queen Elizabeth School. This is a very popular program, and school principals have requested additional readers next year. This presents the opportunity to spend a rewarding morning interacting with young students. Please consider joining us next year.

You probably remember the **arts and crafts** sale at our December meeting. Five of our talented members sold their art, and donated a percentage to provide a scholarship for a student attending the Perth Theatre of Musical Theatre. This was greatly appreciated by the young student and her mother! Many thanks to our artists!

In April, Penny Silberhorn helped us with a special evening at Studio **Theatre**. Many of our members, spouses and friends attended "You Say Tomatoes" and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

In May, Evelyn Izzard represented us at **Perth Historica Fair**. She helped to judge the many and varied student history projects and offers many thanks to those who served as judges of the projects about people and events in Canadian history—the students involved really appreciate our interest. We also provide financial assistance for the prizes.

Summer reading programs in libraries in Perth, Smiths Falls and Lanark also benefit from our fund-raising activities. These programs assist students to keep up their reading skills through the summer months.

Finally, the **education awards** committee is getting ready to select the winners of our education awards, to be presented on May 31. Please try to attend this worthwhile evening and congratulate the fine women and girls who have been successful in their applications.

Membership (Isabel Joyce)

Our membership has grown by leaps and bounds, with 33 new members joining our ranks this fall and winter. Including the 21 new members who joined last year, we now have a club membership of 110 ladies. Some of our new members already knew someone in the club, but a few joined just knowing about our excellent track record of helping to improve the status of women and girls in our community.

With just 15 members who have over 10 years of experience, we actually have a very young membership, and education of our newest members over the next couple of years is crucial to maintaining the integrity of our goals and purpose.

As the membership rep I've tried to encourage participation. I hope our new members will take part in monthly meetings and interest groups, join committees, and help with fundraising. CFUW has so much to offer, and there are so many ways our members can give back.

One way is to fill out a survey that we've sent out asking new members about their experiences in their first year...what worked for them, and if we could do better. Thank you to all who participated.

With so many members this year, I thought it would be advantageous to create a photo directory that includes pertinent information such as address, phone number, e-mail, significant other's name, and the year they joined. Also included in this directory for easy reference is our purpose (on the front cover), a list of the executive, our interest groups and chairs, and our monthly meetings. All this is great to have, but I've heard from so many of you that it's the pictures that are helpful - finally giving a name to a face.

We are very blessed to have such diversity in the skills and talents of our membership, and I look forward to a productive and socially enriching year next year!

New Member Liaison (Mary Beverly)

Twenty five ladies were welcomed at our September Potluck at the Perth Legion. Many of them had read about CFUW in the local papers, and others were guests of current members. They were given info packages and several submitted their membership forms and payment that evening. I continued to receive names of prospective members on an ongoing basis, and followed up with each one.

All new and potential members were contacted prior to the coffee and general meetings, encouraged to attend, and asked if they needed a ride. They were greeted at the meetings, introduced to other members, shown to various displays, etc. Name tags were ordered from Elite Engraving on an ongoing basis.

I was contacted by several ladies who had been very impressed with our House Tour and wanted to know more about our organization. By December we had 29 new members, and many attended our Christmas Dinner.

In January I had six additional names and they were invited to the January meeting and given membership packages. President Anne hosted a Valentine's Tea at her home on February 13th. Twenty nine new members, eight "prospects" and several of the executive were invited. In February I assisted Membership Chair Isabel with a satisfaction survey which was distributed to the new members as well as to those who had joined the previous year.

By April we had 33 new members! These ladies have integrated well, joined interest groups, assisted with projects and are a most welcome addition to our very diverse and dynamic club. I have the names of two ladies who are interested in joining next year, and they will be contacted in the fall.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

(Evelyn Izzard)

During 2010-2011 a number of new Interest Groups were formed: the Chick Flicks, the Stitch and Bitch Club, a third Book Club, Flower Gardening for Fun, Making Music for Fun and a Hiking Club. These activities, as well as numerous existing ones: two existing Book Clubs, Marathon Bridge, Lunch and Bridge, Out and About Jaunts, Gourmet Club, Supper Club, Travel Group; Kennel Club, Conversational French, Conversational Spanish; provided members, new and older, with a varied choice of special interest groups. The volunteer chairs of these groups, who give so generously of their time, patience and talents, certainly deserve a rousing round of applause. Bravo for helping to keep our club vibrant and attractive for all. I have truly enjoyed working with all of you over the last few years.

Walking Club (Evelyn Izzard)

Due to an injured Achilles tendon, I was unable to walk but a short distance. Several of us met at the Coffee Grind and decided to attend exercises at the United Church in Perth on Monday afternoons, and if we wished, follow with a half-hour walk about town and a coffee afterwards. I shall not be able to lead this group during 2011-2012 but hope that a healthy and enthusiastic volunteer will do so.

Travel Club: (Donna Morrow)

- In September 2010, twelve members toured Washington D.C. with Travac Tours, including the Smithsonian Museums and the many monuments to major American historical events. A highlight was a tour of Arlington Cemetery which took us back to "Where we were when..."
- In May 2011, twenty one members will travel to Stratford Ontario for five productions in three days. CFUW has been invited to join the tour by the Perth Academy of Musical Theatre, providing a low- cost opportunity to view: King Lear, Merry Wives of Windsor, Grapes of Wrath, Jesus Christ Super Star and Camelot.
- A tour to Boston/ Cape Cod with Travac Tours will occur in June, with thirteen members. We will be touring the Cape for one day, and then to Boston to enjoy the sights and history there.
- September will feature a trip to the Hudson River Valley. Planning is underway and details will be shared with members in the near future.

Investment Group: (Donna Morrow)

- The group has nine original members and now owns nine stocks, and two Exchange Traded Funds. One stock has yielded 95.5% since purchase; another 55%. Two companies have not been so kind and will generate considerable discussion about whether to sell, hold or buy more.
- Total rate of return for this year is 15.5%.
- The group has learned so much from colleague, Claudia Mosher.

Kennel Club: (Ann Ball)

The group has grown to six dogs (and their owners!) who frequently get together on Wednesday mornings for a walk and social time. We try to visit different venues within a 30 minute radius and are always open to others who may wish to join us. The venue and start time is usually advised by email on Tuesday.

Supper Club: (Pat Pertrim)

The supper club met at the homes of Barb Mingie, Lois Perreault, and Pat Bertrim this year. Over thirty members signed up for this casual and popular group and each evening was a unique blend of excellent dining and fellowship. This is a good way for members and spouses to become better acquainted and share common interests. Thank you to all who participated and hosted these events. We will need a new chair for 2011-2012. It is a very light task.

Gardening For Fun Group: (Pat Bertrim)

Members who signed up for the gardening group have 'met' only through emails and participation in the horticultural society to date. As we enter gardening season we will test the possibilities and have a better sense of how this group might develop for 2011-2012 and beyond.

Book Clubs (Tuesday and Thursday): Lois Perreault, Lynn Stockless, Jackie Morris

During the 2010-2011 year a third club was created and led by Jackie Morris. In total the clubs had 32 members. The books were chosen and dates coordinated the previous June and each club read the same titles in the same months. Because of the burden this created for the library and on local bookstores, the format will change in the coming year.

Our reading list included the following:

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| Cutting for Stone | The Mistress of Nothing |
| Mister Pip | Finding Nouf |
| After River | The Bishop's Man |
| The Places in Between | The Namesake |
| The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox | |

Very popular on the list was Cutting for Stone and least popular was probably The Places in Between which told of a long, wintery trek in Afghanistan and was scheduled in March!!

The three groups had a lovely Christmas wine and cheese party at the residence of one of the members to discuss Finding Nouf. In June we will meet again for our closing lunch at The Stone Cellar.

We are in the process of choosing next year's reading list and have decided that each group will pick their own 9 favorite titles. If our choices overlap we will try to schedule

the books in different months to allow for greater access to borrowing from the library and with each other. We are excited to see what each group has chosen.

Beyond the interesting discussions during which we often digress, we also share and support one another...a happy way to spend an afternoon.

Spanish Immersion: (Brenda Ethier)

The Spanish special interest group began in 2008 with one group that included beginners as well as people who studied Spanish at a university level. Since this did not meet the needs of either group, another group was established--Beginner and Intermediate. Johana Lintamann, a native Spanish speaker originally from Colombia is our teacher. The groups are small, so there is no "hiding in the crowd" factor; everyone gets to participate a great deal during each class which frequently lasts over an hour and a half.

The Beginner group met every second and fourth Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at The Grind. One relatively new member reports that our instructor is very good at fitting her skill level in with that of the others in the class. Johana is very encouraging and motivating and provides the right balance of fun and work. The class members who began in September have made amazing progress, both in comprehension and speaking.

The Intermediate Group met every first and third Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at my home. Again, there are varying levels of fluency in the group, but we all are able to participate at our own level during the class. Most of us have become very comfortable speaking Spanish when we are on holiday in Spanish-speaking countries.

We plan to offer the two groups again in the fall. I must also add that all of us who have been in the Spanish group since the beginning have become dear friends who have supported each other through some difficult times—an unexpected but welcome benefit.

Marathon Bridge (Muriel Turner)

Fourteen members and several spares enjoyed twice monthly games since last fall. With only one game left to play, we are looking forward to our final group game and lunch shortly.

“Out and About” (*Marlene Gordon and Jane Stott*)

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| Sept. | McKenzie King Estate for a tour and a walk through the grounds | 18 attended |
| Oct. | War Museum with lunch in the cafeteria | 11 attended |
| Nov. | To a tree farm/nursery for a lesson on making a wreath or table decoration | 7 attended |

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| Dec. | Pot luck lunch in town at the home of Jackie Morris | 19 attended |
| Jan. | Studio Theater – The Full Monty | 9 attended |
| Feb. | A presentation of naturalist Simon Lunn – paper bag lunch in Perth at the home of Chris McGuire-Sherwin | 12 attended |
| Mar. | Laurier House in Ottawa, lunch at Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute with a tour of the kitchen | 10 attended |
| May | Imax theater in Ottawa – “Born to be wild” 3D and lunch at the Cafe de Musee | |

Chick Flicks (Elaine Mackay)

Half a dozen of us met 4 times this year to spend a social afternoon together watching a movie. This was a light-hearted event designed to get to know each other better and to escape into the fantasy of movies. Each movie was chosen by the hostess in whose house we viewed the movie. We had lots of fun and great laughs.

Stitch & Bitch (Jackie Boyer)

The Stitch & Bitch special interest group was introduced this past September as a gathering of people who enjoy any form of stitching, whether knitting; quilting; cross-stitch or embroidery. Twice a month the session is hosted by different members of the group, and everyone enjoys tea, coffee and baked goods or cookies. We are a group of 7 or 8 members and attendance varies each meeting.

The conversations vary but are light and fun as we discuss politics, religion, travel destinations, family, work etc., but never any gossip! It’s just a very relaxing way of spending a couple of hours with good friends.

I hope we have as much interest next year as this past year as it has been fun and in fact, we are still going, even into summer!

Conversational French (Sylvia Mainguy)

The French group met monthly with our last meeting for this season May 11th, 2011 at Jackie Boyer's house. We did not follow an agenda but discussed many things ranging from recipes to travel to news and learned a few new words and expressions along the way. Each meeting was a little different with the focus on having fun and maintaining and improving our fluency in French.

Gourmet Club (Pat Foulkes)

The Gourmet group has had a busy year again, filled with beautiful meals and good company. We had 10 full time members and 5 part time (spares). The dinners were held on the 2nd Friday of every month, unless the group involved all chose to change the date. The last dinner of the season will be the Men's Barbeque in June. We welcome an invitation to host this event.

Pat will be retiring after the Barbeque - so we need someone to co-ordinate the group for next year. Please let someone on the Executive know if you'd like to manage this great group.

Bridge and Lunch (Barb Mingie)

The Bridge and Luncheon group of 8 ladies meets once a month from September to June to enjoy the game of bridge. We start our gatherings at 11:30 over a glass of wine, followed by a delicious lunch provided by the host member. We are often looking for spares due to holidays and unforeseen situations. If you are interested in this group, please consider signing up next September. If enough members sign up, we can always start a second group.