

**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN**



ETOBICOKE

celebrates



45 years

CFUW Etobicoke
MEMBERS REMEMBER

In anticipation of our 45th Birthday party on June 10th, 1998, Betty MacGregor contacted some of our originating members for their reminiscences. It was wonderful to hear from them about the early days and we are very grateful to them for the vibrant club we all enjoy today.

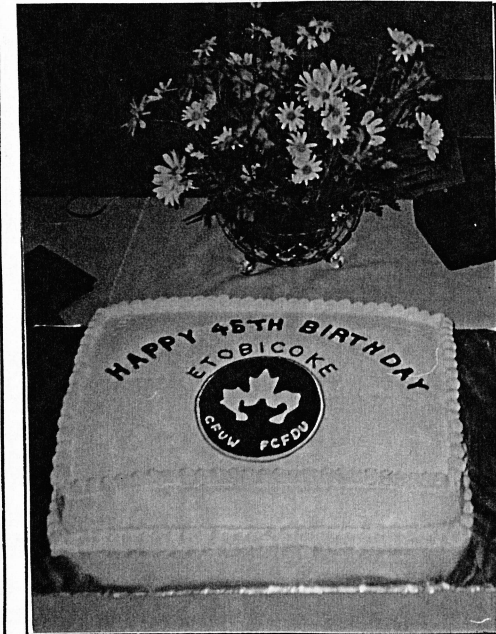
As many of the early members as possible were sent a personal invitation to "The Birthday Party" by our Corresponding Secretary Margaret Johnson.

The following pages contain some of the fond memories related by our early members. We are very grateful to Betty MacGregor for her help with this project and particularly for her presentation at our June 1998 meeting.

The Executive Committee 98/99



Betty MacGregor



Peggy Joy, Carol Kimber, Eleanor Hardy, Mary Curnoe
Betty Hardie, Yvonne Froud, Elizabeth Sweet, Sophie Lucyk

Elizabeth Sweet

"The Year - 1952" Have you heard that some ladies (women were referred to as ladies at that time) wish to organize a University Women's Club in Etobicoke? Why would they want to do that when we already have a U.W.C. in Toronto on St. George Street just south of Bloor? Well, we wished to have a U.W.C. in Etobicoke because the "downtown club" was so far away. In those days there was no Bloor subway, A street car ride from Jane and Bloor to St. George Street required almost an hour, and we did not live at Bloor and Jane Street. We lived in Etobicoke, west of the Humber River! Also few ladies had a driver's licence, and few families had two cars.

The President of the "downtown club", Dr. Marion Law, saw the wisdom in the proposal and gave her support to U.W.C. of Etobicoke.

Marjorie Zavitz

Down Memory Lane - circa mid 50's On invitation of Mary Sharpe, I joined UWC of Etobicoke in September '53 (or '54). I knew Mary from HVV Elementary School P.T.A. as our daughters were classmates and had started kindergarten together in Fall of '52, the opening of HVV School.

Our annual UWC picnic was held at the home of Isobel Bishop, a charter member of our club. Her farm home was a lush expanse of lawns and many acres of cultivated farm on the north edge of Etobicoke, at that time. However over the years it has evolved into one of the principle arteries of heavy traffic in the area with numerous entries and exits into and out of what is now our fair "city" of Etobicoke.



Helen Fairgrieve

A pleasant memory of "nights of yore" for me, was a general meeting at Lambton-Kingsway School circa 1965. Dorothy Beatty and I co-convened a "Japanese Night". We, the players, were arrayed in genuine Japanese kimonos complete with obis and "hair do's" (as genuine as possible). The Japanese Trade Commissioner's wife, Sumi, daughter, Koka and I performed a very formal and correct tea ceremony - table plus mats, etc. Dorothy Beatty explained the history of the kimono and we had a model - for our bride - Joan Graenger?? (Graham). A Japanese-Canadian friend of Dorothy's robed Joan in a gorgeous kimono complete with concealed dagger inside the obi. The meeting was a **smashing** success.

Margaret Peacock

I remember a pot luck picnic on Central Park. The club was small and nearly everyone there knew everyone else. I would have thought it was before 1957, but maybe not. Mary Sharpe and Phyllis Monkman were there. I went to most meetings with Beth Newton who lived on Pinehurst and knew a distant relative of mine in Winnipeg.

Yvonne Snyder Froud

I remember with pleasure the early days of the club. I believe our first organizational meeting comprised seven people. There were 25 members at our first meeting and 50 at our second. After that, the Club continued to increase.

I can remember the female dentist Dr. Martha Law giving us invaluable advice and information re: the CFUW. The names I can remember at the first meeting are Elizabeth Sweet, Eleanor Moorhouse, Mary Sharpe and Mary Appleby.

I can remember receiving a lovely cup and saucer for our October 1953 wedding.

Lydia Cushnie

I remember how friendly the members were. I was given a ride there and a ride home during the first five years I was a member. I enjoyed the meetings and the interest groups I belonged to from time to time.

I thank all those who contributed so much time and thought to the club's activities.

Nelda Lewis

My best times in the U.W.C. are associated with Gourmet I, the first of the cooking groups, of which there are now ten. We were twelve keen cooks and food-lovers who got together in September, 1968 and 'though we have had some changes in membership due to deaths or moves, there are still nine of us who have been together for well over 22 years. We have three ex-members who join us whenever they are in town, and we are still going strong, 'though we do occasionally have dinner in a restaurant.

These Tuesday dinners have given us the foods of most of the countries of the world as well as many special occasions which included our husbands at the final June dinners. Among these were a cruise on the Toronto Harbour Commission boat, which ended with fireworks at Ontario Place, a Royal Wedding, which had us all parading around Ravensbourne crescent in full regal attire, with crowns and decorations with medals (to the fascination of neighbours mowing their front lawns), a French bicycle race, also in suitable attire, for a progressive meal, and the Olympics - also progressive, with a toilet-bowl plunger doing service as the Olympic flame, and many flags at each stop. We had a picnic in Niagara-On-The-Lake, followed by a play, of course, and a weekend in the Eastern Townships, as well as a few days in

Florida. Our most memorable gathering was one at which we celebrated 25 years of Gourmet I. We flew to New York City for a week-end. We had our own mini-bus which met us at the airport, drove us all around New York for sightseeing, delivered us for a memorable lunch at New York's acclaimed restaurant "Le Cirque" where we had a fabulous meal & superb service, then took us to the pier where we boarded the Queen E II for a harbour cruise of a day and a half.

The next day our mini-bus again met us and took us to a typical New York deli for lunch followed by a matinee of a play with Allan Alda. That was quite a week-end!

The best part of all this is that we have learned a great deal, and have become very good friends. Now we are looking forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary in September. No concrete plans yet.



Betsy Boyce

I remember the first meeting of the Etobicoke University Women's Club when Mary Appleby invited to her house any graduate she knew or knew about to meet Dr. Martha Law, president of CFUW. She outlined what we should do to form a club, and why we should do it. Mary is the real founding member.

Many meetings were notable, and to my regret I have forgotten most of them. We once had Barbara Chilcott of the Crest Theatre as speaker when the Crest was the only legitimate theatre in Toronto, and once - before we knew how famous they were to be - four members of the Stratford Theatre to tell us about the tent theatre which would begin that summer. I remember an annual meeting and pot-luck supper on the lawn of Isabel Bishop's farm house at the corner of Brown's Line and Burnhamthorpe Road. The house is now a museum and across the road. The next time you drive by try to think of it in its rural past.

Betty Hardie

My recollections of "the old days" of our club are tied to the period of the early fifties when Etobicoke was growing in many directions, new schools, churches, libraries, fire halls, etc. and the population was increasing by leaps and bounds.

Much of the population consisted of young married couples recently moved to the suburbs. While the club membership was varied, including women of all ages, with and without on-going careers, a significant proportion was made up of the young mothers. For them the club offered opportunities to share common interests or try new ones through groups, as well as the stimulation of the speakers at the regular meetings. And this was accessible without the need of a trip downtown, at a time when there was no subway and bus and street car was time consuming.

Some of the interest groups continue - Play Reading, Bridge, Jaunters. In "the old days" one of the most popular was "Hat Making". I wonder if any of the hats so produced are still around. Whether or not, what did survive were the many friendships that were formed and have been long lasting.

Eleanore Hardy

"The Age of Hats" We needed a hat to complement or match each outfit. Making them was great fun and the hats were "gorgeous."

Swimming and diving classes were great at the Lyons Pool on Montgomery Road. The June picnics were a delight Isobel Bishop's fascinating antique home with beautiful grounds. Isobel was such a gracious hostess. Later we had pot luck dinners at Thorncrest Village Clubhouse. Delicious dinners and entertainment filled evenings there for many years.



Mary Sharpe

All I can remember is that both Elizabeth Sweet and I had come from clubs - nothing like the big "Toronto" one - we both approached Dr. Law. That is how Elizabeth and I met and that is how we got going. Eleven attended the first meeting - it was in a private home. I forget where!

Carol Kimber

My special memories are the wonderful "Jaunts" back in the '60's, convened for years by Helen Mitchell and Phyllis Anderson. Two stand out in my memory - one by chartered bus to the Agricultural College in Guelph, and one to the "Science School" on Toronto Island, and I'll add one more - to Malton Airport (before Pearson) to visit a pilot training simulator to which we could invite our husbands and older children.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Miss Mary A.E. Appleby
Mrs. Isabel Bishop
Mrs. Betsy Boyce
Mrs. Rita Cavers
Mrs. Mary Curnoe
Mrs. Helen Fairgrieve
Mrs. Lorraine Fowler
Mrs. Gwen Hamilton
Dr. Margaret Hann
Miss Betty Hardie
Miss Fern Levis
Miss Eleanor Lewis
Mrs. Jean Luttmann
Mrs. Thelma Meen
Mrs. Eleanor Moorhouse
Mrs. Beth Newton
Mrs. Joan Patterson
Mrs. Helen Pearce
Miss Elsie Porter
Mrs. Mary Rowntree
Mrs. Mary Sharpe
Mrs. Anne Marie Slater
Miss Patricia Snyder
Miss Yvonne Snyder (Froud)
Mrs. Audrey Stevens
Mrs. Elizabeth Sweet (President)



A big thank you to Betty MacGregor
and all the women who contributed both
their recollections and their efforts in the
50's to get CFUW Etobicoke underway.

