

President's Report June, 2015

This has been a very successful year for CFUW, Etobicoke. We have set high goals and have met or exceeded them. This was accomplished in a year where three executive positions were vacated due to illness and personal circumstance. Leona Skanes took the place of Mary MacMillan as recording secretary. Leslie Darling replaced Christine Senkiw as Communications Convenor. Interest Group Convenor, Martha Leger, was not replaced but her duties were filled by other members of the executive.

I thank members of executive who worked tirelessly and collaboratively to accomplish such an ambitious and rewarding year. It has been an honour and a pleasure to work with you.

1. **Significantly Increase Membership.** We added 30 new members to our roster. This was achieved through a number of means. The tremendous efforts of our Membership Convenor in welcoming and organizing events for these new members has encouraged them not only to stay but to bring in more new members. A newspaper feature on CFUW and actively encouraging members to distribute brochures and invite friends has also contributed to increased membership. We also participated with tables and representatives in the Etobicoke Community Services Fair at Cloverdale Mall and at the Zoomer Show at the Exhibition. This attracted inquiries and some new members. Membership sits at 294 women.
2. **Welcoming & Retention of Members.** Efforts were made to retain members through assisting them to find and join interest groups, supporting the efforts of the Goodwill Ambassadors in sending cards to members who are ill or in mourning, and having members greet and take newcomers under their wing. Excellent monthly programming also brings members out.
3. **Diversity.** A committee, headed by Pat Ferbyack and Pat McClelland was struck to investigate CFUW Etobicoke's possible involvement with newcomers to Canada. Through the Polycultural Centre on Bloor Street, members now volunteer in conversation circles at the Centre. We have also attracted newcomers to attend some of our meetings. The goal is to interest these women in joining the club so that our membership better reflects the diversity of Etobicoke.
4. **Honouring Members with 50 years or more Membership.** In October we honoured 20 women who have had 50 years or more membership in CFUW. Each woman was recognized and presented with a certificate and a long stem rose. Pat Joyce visited founding member, Elizabeth Sweet at her home and made her presentation there.
5. **Support for Women's Shelters.** Once again members generously supported our Christmas raffle benefitting Women's Habitat and Ernestine's Women's Shelter. Including a one time donation of \$500.00 we raised \$1650.00. Our second annual Stop the Violence Breakfast was held on February 9 and raised \$600.00 for Ernestine's.
6. **Political Activism.** Being politically and socially aware and ready to take action on related issues is part of our mandate. Our Issues Convenor has kept us aware of violence against women issues and has gathered numerous names on a petition that will allow our MP, Kirsty Duncan, to address parliament on these issues. Each month the president spoke to members about political and social issues

ranging from child labour, to stereotypical toys, to female heroes, to women in the military. Further information on these and the names and addresses of people to contact regarding these issues were posted on the information board and published in the newsletter. Members were encouraged to write, as private citizens, to raise their concerns.

7. **Interest Groups.** We have 40 interest groups this year ranging from yoga, to book clubs, to tennis and bridge. The Convenors' Tea was held on March 11. In discussion it was decided that no Interest Group would be considered closed except under very special circumstances. Instead new and divided groups would be encouraged and a novel rotation system was also discussed in order to keep groups intact.
8. **Awards Committee.** A total of 5 awards valued at \$7,500.00 were given to UofT, York, Humber, and Ryerson. Community awards went to Elisa House (\$300.) and Microskills (\$300.00).
9. **Ontario Council.** Five or six members attend Ontario Council three times per year. Member, Pat Joyce is our Regional Director. Avery Fleming continues as our representative at Toronto Caucus.
10. **Other Achievements.**
 - A. **Inclement weather policy.** Our Christmas Party had to be cancelled when the Fairfield Centre was closed due to inclement weather. In order to ensure that all members are aware of such cancellation and postponements, it was decided that the executive will make a decision by email as to whether or not a function will proceed and that the membership will be emailed a notice by 1 o'clock on the day of the event. The few members without email will be telephoned by volunteers.
 - B. **Banner.** The Club now has a new banner and table front cover. These reflect the new colours adopted by CFUW National and have the motto, 'The power of women working together.'

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Rutherford