

**June 2, 2016**

## **Changeover Meeting**

### **President's Report**

**2015 - 2016**

This past year was another successful one for CFUW Etobicoke. We brought in 30+ new members, and maintained most of our membership. There was an increase in the diversity of our members as well. Also, three new interest groups were added. All of this was possible due to the wonderful work of the Executive, in spite of a few changes, mid-term. When the former Membership Convenor was not able to continue with her term, Pat Cleland willingly stepped up and signed up for another two year term. We also welcomed two new Recording Secretaries, Angela Loconte and Mary Beth Wallace, who agreed to record the minutes of the Executive and General Meetings, respectively. My sincere appreciation to these three ladies, along with thanks to the entire Executive, for leading CFUW Etobicoke in such an exemplary manner.

In September, we had a very successful meeting, attracting many new members, with standing room only. We changed our format to allow for new members to sign up for our interest groups. This format was appreciated by all. We had interesting speakers through the year, and this also helped retain existing and new membership. The incoming Executive was introduced to the general membership.

In October, we honoured four members who have been with CFUW for over 50 years. They were presented with a rose and a Certificate of Appreciation.

In November we held our annual New Members' Reception, where the Executive provided refreshments and new members had the opportunity to mingle with, and ask questions of, the Executive.

In December we held our annual Christmas and Holiday party, along with the raffle. Our three-man trio was very entertaining. And our raffle raised close to \$2200.

Our other fundraising was very successful this past year. At our annual Valentine's Day Stop the Violence Against Women breakfast, where the guest speaker was from Roots of Empathy, we raised around \$600. The amount collected from this breakfast was donated to the women's shelter in Etobicoke. A card party was also held, that raised over \$1700. We were also able to donate \$8100 to local colleges and universities to help students finance their education at various levels in their programmes. As always, \$12 from each member's fee continues to go to the Charitable Trust.

At our Resolutions meeting in March, we had a larger-than-usual crowd. There were five resolutions put forth. Our resolutions committee, once again, did an exceptional job at

presenting and clarifying all of them. All the resolutions were accepted by our membership, with a few word changes.

Also in March was our Interest Group Convenors' Tea. This was well attended, including by some members of the Executive. Several concerns were raised, and these were brought to the Executive. One request that was made of the convenors was to get information about other activities of their members to allow us to celebrate them.

At our Annual General Meeting in April, the new Executive was presented to, and accepted by, the members. The proposed budget was also presented and accepted.

The annual banquet was held in May at the Lambton Golf and Country Club, with wonderful guest speakers. Also held in May was an extraordinary meeting to discuss and vote on a proposal put forth by CFUW St. Thomas on CFUW severing ties with GWI. After a spirited discussion, with input from many members, the vote was in favour of severing ties with GWI. The proposal passed 51 to 6.

Our votes, regarding all the resolutions, will be taken to the CFUW National AGM and voted upon by our incoming President and Vice-President. (**UPDATE:** This motion was defeated at the AGM, and CFUW continues to be affiliated with GWI.)

We continue to be involved in our community partnership with Polycultural Community and Immigrant Services by facilitating a conversation circle once a week. Our members also continue to attend the Ontario Council Standing Committee Meetings. I attended the Ontario Council AGM along with Halina Ostrovski and Pat Joyce.

Pat Joyce was re-elected for a two year term as Regional Director for Ontario Central. She is also on the membership committee of CFUW National.

I look forward to serving as Past President with the incoming Executive, as we continue to deliver on our motto, "The Power of Women Working Together".

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roma Mehta