



CFUW – Owen Sound & Area Newsletter
JUNE 2026 – following the June 9th AGM

President - Ruth Henderson
Vice-President – Cynthia Lemon
Treasurer - Styn Furness
Secretary – Ann Downs Emms
Past President – Janet Glasspool

CFUW – Owen Sound & Area

CFUW: 'Women Helping Women'

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 CFUW Clubs, located in every Province across Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission to UNESCO.

Our Club was founded in 1990, spearheaded by two very dynamic women, Alma Wilson and Norah Egner. Our charter was awarded in August 1991 at the National annual general meeting in Toronto. We were the 135th club in Canada at that time. **Our Club embarks upon its 36th year, 2026 – 2027.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On June 9, 2026, the Annual General Meeting for CFUW - Owen Sound and Area, was held at the Legacy Ridge Golf Course. Fifty-seven people joined us for an excellent lunch and keyboard entertainment by Max Clark. His partner, Darlene Long, decided to join our organization soon after she arrived, along with Elaine White, Claire O'Reilly, and Elizabeth Warren.

It was an honour being your President during our 35th Anniversary Year and I look forward to the coming year as well. I want to express my thanks to the members of the Executive, Committee and Interest Group Leaders, and especially to Helen Penfold and Sandra Shantz who are retiring from their Executive positions and to Anne Dondertman who has retired from one of her two roles. We welcome Ann Downs Emms and Myrt Heinrich to the table.

I was proud to represent you at the Ontario Council AGM on May 23, in Peterborough where Owen Sound received recognition for our 35th Anniversary and for being one of five clubs in all of Ontario to have over a 10% increase in membership last year. People were also impressed with the work of the Advocacy Committee and their Resolution (adopted by CFUW Ontario Council in 2025) that the Provincial Government have an independent Senior's Advocate. This is a project that will continue to have pressure applied until

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued ...

implementation. Incoming Advocacy Chair (and Lawyer at Grey Bruce Legal Aid), Angela Yenssen, is very competent at this.

In July, I shall be in Montreal at CFUW National AGM to connect with others from across Canada to learn what is working in their areas.

Congratulations to Styn Furness, the recipient of the *Recognition Award for 2025-2026*. It is so well-deserved and we thank her for her efforts on our behalf.

In our memorials this year, we remember Mary Jeanne Oliver, a new Member in January of 2026, that many of you would not yet have met. We also remember Lynne Cox as she experiences life without her husband, Adam Glass.

In closing, please know that I shall do my best in the coming year; I love this organization and all for which it stands. See you August 11th at Styn's farm!

~ Ruth Henderson, President, CFUW Owen Sound and Area



L- R: Janet Glasspool, Past President; Cynthia Lemon, Vice-President; Ruth Henderson, President holding the 35th Anniversary Certificate presented to our Club by Ontario Council CFUW

SUMMARY OF THE AGM HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 9th, 2026 AT LEGACY RIDGE

The **2025-2026 AGM package** (including reports, financial statements) which had been emailed to all members earlier, received unanimous approval at the AGM. For new members and those wishing to study it further, you'll find it attached to the cover email for this newsletter.

Members who attended the June 9th, 2026 AGM elected the following slate of Officers to the Executive Committee for 2026 – 2027:

President: Ruth Henderson
Vice-President: Cynthia Lemon
Treasurer: Styn Furness
Secretary: Ann Downs Emms
Past President: Janet Glasspool

The following members are appointed to the Executive Committee as Coordinators for 2026-2027

Advocacy: Angela Yenssen
Archives: Meran Farmer
Education: Cynthia Lemon
Membership: Myrt Heinrich
Newsletter: Judy Beth Armstrong
Policy: Janet Glasspool
Program: Brenda Bergen and Meran Farmer
Social Media: Anne Dondertman



*Angela Yenssen,
Advocacy Coordinator*

Officers* elected, and members appointed as Coordinators, to the Executive Committee for 2026 – 2027:



L-R: Meran Farmer, Archives Coordinator & Programs Co-Coordinator; Cynthia Lemon, Vice-President & Education Coordinator; Myrt Heinrich, Membership Coordinator; Judy Beth Armstrong, Newsletter Coordinator; Ruth Henderson*, President; Styn Furness*, Treasurer; Janet Glasspool*, Past President & Policy Coordinator; Ann Downs Emms*, Secretary; Brenda Bergen, Programs Co-Coordinator; Anne Dondertman, Social Media Coordinator. Absent from this photo, but see above: Angela Yenssen, Advocacy Coordinator*

SUMMARY OF THE AGM HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026 AT LEGACY RIDGE, continued ...

The Club's Interest Groups and their Coordinators are as follows:

Art Explorers – Cynthia Porter

Book Club 1 – Sydney Misener and Anne Seymour

Book Club 2- Meran Farmer

Games – Judy Keeling

Healthy Lifestyles – Rosemary McCann and Janet Barker

Tuesday Online Social – Cynthia Lemon



Meran Farmer, Book Club; Cynthia Porter, Art Explorers



Sydney Misener, Book Club

SUMMARY OF THE AGM HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026 AT LEGACY RIDGE, continued ...
The Club's Interest Groups and their Coordinators, continued ...



Above: Cynthia Lemon, Tuesday Online Social; Anne Seymour, Book Club.



Judy Keeling, Games Group



Janet Barker & Rosemary McCann, Healthy Lifestyles

SUMMARY OF THE AGM HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026 AT LEGACY RIDGE, continued ...

RECOGNITION AWARD ~ STYN FURNESS

Every year, our Club recognizes the special commitment and service of one or two of our members. This year, we want to give special thanks to **STYN FURNESS**, a highly valued member who always goes above and beyond the normal involvement expected by our Club.

Styn joined CFUW – Owen Sound & Area in 2016 and two years later she agreed to be the Club Treasurer. She has also been an invaluable member of the Program Committee for the past 8 years. Styn is the organizer who has made sure that we have refreshments at our meetings. She has arranged for buses, and organized trips for our wonderful Mystery Bus Tours. For the past number of years, we have had the great pleasure of being guests at her farm for our August Picnic.

Styn has worked tirelessly volunteering not only in our Club, but in other organizations in our community. For years, she has been a hardworking member of the Owen

Sound Order of Good Cheer, the Grey County Historical Society, and also dedicates much of her time to the Georgian Shores United Church where she regularly volunteers. When she's not busy volunteering, Styn is supporting local musicians and the theatre. Mostly, though, she is a loving and attentive mother, grandmother and great grandmother who enjoys hosting regular gatherings for her large and wonderful family at her beautiful farm.

Styn is always more than willing and happy to take on tasks whenever she is approached. She is the first person you see at our lunch meetings or special events to process and manage your registration, and particularly the money collected for lunches and other activities.

Over the years, Styn has made our new members feel so welcome with her warm and cheery personality. Her positive attitude, enthusiasm, and exceptional willingness to help whenever possible, make her a highly valued member and we are very appreciative of all that she has contributed to CFUW - Owen Sound & Area.

On behalf of the entire Club and the Recognition Committee, we are pleased to present the **2026 Recognition Award to STYN FURNESS** who has shown her dedication to the values, growth and success of CFUW.

~ Meran Farmer, Chair of Recognition Committee; Members: Judy Beth Armstrong, Janet Glasspool, and Ruth Henderson



*Styn Furness, presented with Recognition Award 2026
by Judy Beth Armstrong*

SUMMARY OF THE AGM HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026 AT LEGACY RIDGE, continued ...

AGM GUEST ENTERTAINER



After a delicious lunch and social time, pianist and entertainer extraordinaire, Max Clark, tinkled the ivories, played some of our favourite tunes, and along with encouragement from Donna Phillips, had all of us singing along. It was such an upbeat, uplifting and rejuvenating afternoon. Warmest thanks to Max Clark!

CFUW Land Acknowledgement

We want to acknowledge that this place where we come together is within the ancestral and traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Nation: the people of the Three Fires known as the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. They are known locally as the Chippewas of Saugeen and the Chippewas of Neyaashiinigmiing Unceded First Nation, together known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. We give thanks to these people for their stewardship of this land over thousands of years.

As a Canadian organization, we are committed to reconciliation, and we acknowledge our responsibility to learn about the treaties, the histories, and the contributions of Indigenous communities, both past and present.

PROGRAM

*General Meetings/Programs are **usually** held on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month, with NO meeting in July or January.*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS ~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Tuesday, August 11, 11:30 AM: “Casual Country” outdoor potluck lunch at the lovely farm home of Styn Furness. *Details to follow.*

Tuesday, September 8, 11:30 AM: “Welcome Back” General Meeting and Luncheon at Legacy Ridge Golf Club Dining Room. Special Guest will be Dave Carr, CFOS Open Line Host for decades. *Details to follow.*

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 PM: Ted Barris and The Alley Cats present the history and music of World War II. At the Owen Sound Legion. Tickets \$20.00 per person, in advance or at the door.

~ Brenda Bergen & Meran Farmer, Program Committee Co-Coordinators

MEMBERS' MUSINGS...

A Beautiful Day in the River District

What makes a good neighbourhood?

If you Google that question, a consistent list will pop up before your eyes. Things that include some of the following items: houses, or businesses that are well maintained, manicured lawns, gardens, proximity to amenities, and many other factors dealing with infrastructure. However, good neighbourhoods are so much more than a list of items.

A good neighbourhood is more about community spirit than anything else. What makes a neighbourhood, a healthy community, is so much more than homes, or businesses that are well maintained with parks and amenities close by. A neighbourhood that lacks caring, acceptance and mutual respect for everyone is not a healthy place. Inclusion is about treating everyone kindly and accepting differences as assets. Neighbourhoods that are safe and friendly exist where there is kindness, compassion and respect for all residents and visitors.

[OSHaRE](#) is one community in the River District that exemplifies this. What began in 2013 in the lower level of the Harmony Centre with 2 staff and volunteers serving dinners to 60-70 clients per day has grown to a much larger outreach over the last number of years.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID in 2020 and the shutdown of many services, OSHaRE had relocated to a new location on 3rd Ave where clients came into the dining room for their evening meal. During COVID the clients who had previously received lunch at Safe and Sound were redirected to OSHaRE to pick up a hot lunch that reverted to a takeout service, not a sit-down meal. Now following COVID, clients have the option of either picking up meals and eating in the dining room, or leave with the takeout meal.

Over the past couple of years, there has been a Food Rescue program created where food and sundry items are picked up from local grocery stores and pharmacies and stored at the Food Share facility, which caters to local

MEMBERS' MUSINGS...

A Beautiful Day in the River District, continued ...

agencies. This program is a local initiative that involves OSHaRE and the Salvation Army. There has been a school lunch program instituted for some local schools at OSHaRE. There is also a family food program now operating through referrals to OSHaRE. Finally, there is room now allocated at OSHaRE where clients can access low barrier healthcare. Members of the SOS and Brightshores teams now participate in groups and clinics during the lunch period at OSHaRE five days a week.

There are now more staff to manage many of the various aspects of the outreach programs at OSHaRE, as well as a great number of volunteers, who serve, or assist in the preparation of food from Monday to Saturday.

When I think of what a good neighbourhood represents, OSHaRE in the River District, ticks all the boxes. It not only is a well maintained, bright, open, and clean space that is close to all downtown amenities, but it's also a place full of positivity, kindness and compassion. It's no surprise that it receives great community support as the organization addresses not only food insecurity, but also helps to preserve the dignity and well-being of vulnerable individuals in our city. To learn more and get involved go to: www.oshare.ca

~ Anne Seymour, OSHaRE volunteer & CFUW member

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of club members, we convey sincere sympathy to ...

- Family and friends of [MARY JEANNE OLIVER](#) who passed away on March 22, 2026, in Owen Sound, with her husband of 70 years, Leslie, at her side.
- **LYNNE COX**, whose husband [ADAM GLASS](#) passed away on June 4, 2026.

Janet Glasspool has taken on the past president's role, and that includes acting as the benevolence contact for our CFUW club. Cynthia Lemon has been doing a great job of this during her time in that position. Please let me know about any deaths in the immediate family of a CFUW member, or a death or serious illness among our members. One of the great features of our club is our support for each other during difficult times.

~ Janet Glasspool, Past President