



# For the Record

## B. C. Council Newsletter Autumn, 2008



### President's Message



Welcome to another year of CFUW activities. I love Autumn! The crispness of the air, the last burst of colour in the garden, the bustle of children going back to school, and we as CFUW members returning to our Clubs to reconnect with friends, hear about this year's program, sign up for interest groups and jaunts, and volunteer to help make the Club a success where we can.

It is my pleasure to take on the dual positions of CFUW Vice President for British Columbia and President of BC Council for the next two years. I look forward to working with the outstanding group of women that you have elected to the BC Council Executive.

I have already had the opportunity to meet and visit with a number of you; at our CFUW AGM in Montreal in August, at UWC Vancouver and CFUW North Vancouver's September Club meetings, and the Island Presidents' Gathering hosted by Regional Director, Penny Rinald. I will be attending the BC West Gathering hosted by RD Marg Picard and visiting the Okanagan in October, and plan to visit many more Clubs and members over the next two years.

The Council Executive held its first meeting on September 10

in Richmond and we are very grateful to Helen Collinge, Resolutions Chair, for hosting us. We were fortunate to have all fourteen (yes, 14!) of the Executive members in attendance, including for the first time, a Council Past President. We really appreciate that Fran Mitchell will be with us to offer advice and support and to be an Ambassador for the Council.

We adopted five goals for the Council to focus our efforts and activities. They are:

1. Raise the profile of BC Council within the Federation
2. Raise public awareness of BC Council and the Federation
3. Increase the membership in British Columbia
4. Develop the groundwork for new clubs in British Columbia
5. Meet national deadlines and requirements

These goals are very practical, and, of course, we need your help to achieve them. We will report back to you regularly on our progress throughout the year.

Best wishes for an active and fun-filled Club year.

*Susan Murphy*

President, BC Council

### New BC Council First Meeting



On September 10<sup>th</sup> after a lively first meeting and delicious lunch, the new BC Council gathered in Helen Collinge's lovely front garden. Fran Mitchell, Past President snapped this photo for posterity .

Front Row, 1 to r – Susan Murphy, Kathy Torhjelm, Marg Picard, Maureen Johnston, Louise Corral, Firenza Albert-Howard.

Back Row, 1 to r – Martha Dagg, Penny Rinald, Monica von Kursell, Sheila Thompson, Donna Brundige, Helen Collinge and Jeannette Mergens

## BC Council Executive

*President /VP-CFUW*

**Susan Murphy** (CFUW Nanaimo)

*Secretary*

**Kathy Torhjelm** CFUW (Nanaimo)

*Treasurer*

**Martha Dagg** (CFUW Kelowna)

*Education*

**Jeanette Mergens** (CFUW Kelowna)

*Status of Women*

**Maureen Johnston** (CFUW North Vancouver)

*Legislation*

**Louise Corrall** (UWC Vancouver)

*Communications*

**Monica von Kursell** (CFUW White Rock/Surrey)

*Resolutions*

**Helen Collinge** (CFUW Richmond)

*ByLaws & Constitution*

**Fiorenza Albert-Howard** (CFUW West Vancouver)

*Past President*

**Fran Mitchell** (CFUW Richmond)

*Archivist*

**Sheila Thompson** (CFUW Abbotsford)

### Regional Directors

*RD East-North*

**Donna Brundige** (CFUW Prince George)

*RD West*

**Marg Picard** (Richmond)

*RD Vancouver Island*

**Penny Rinald** (Saanich Peninsula)

## Directors' and Officers' Insurance

*by Martha Dagg  
Treasurer, BC Council*

As most members are aware, BC Council carries Third-Party Liability insurance for all BC CFUW clubs through our insurance agents, Shaw Sabey & Associates. There is a \$1,000 deductible with this policy. The question has arisen about the necessity of D. & O. insurance. From my reading of the material sent to me by our insurers, I feel that this extra insurance is unnecessary for most of our clubs. Federal non-profit organizations are covered under Part 2 of the CCA which gives some comfort to an officer or director who "acts honestly and reasonably". If a club has paid employees, has its own investment fund, independently selects scholarship winners (a copy of all the selection criteria and decision should always be kept), or organizes/sponsors sporting activities in which members of the public are encouraged to participate, then perhaps it should investigate having the extra insurance. Officers of any club must never issue public statements which might give rise to claims for libel or for negligent misstatement. Any statements by a club must always follow BC or national CFUW policy. An individual may express an opinion, but not in the name of a club. Clubs also only contact their local member, not the premier or prime minister.

If a club feels there may be a need for Directors' and Officers' Insurance, contact the insurance company directly for a more thorough opinion. The appropriate representative is Dawne Kryska, 604-699-2246, or dkryska@shawsabey.com

## "Tis The Season To Be Forming A Resolution"

*by Helen Collinge,  
Resolutions Chair, BC Council,*

I would like to remind all members of CFUW /BC Council that now is the time to consider developing a resolution. The development of resolutions is vital to the purpose of our club. We cannot advocate without policy and we cannot develop policy without resolutions. **If there is an issue that has caught your concern, please bring it forward to your club,** Then, the background study and writing of a resolution can be shared and developed by several members of your club. The Resolutions Committee will be available to provide assistance through the whole process. Clubs that have completed the resolutions process have found it to be a very educational and fulfilling experience. When you supply resolutions for study and development into policy, you are helping all BC Council Clubs!

Please note that BC Council resolutions must refer to provincial and municipal jurisdiction. The Intent to Submit Form should be in by November 1. The first full draft is due by December 1. Work on resolutions continues until they are brought forward to the AGM in April (24-26 this year). Our present policies can be viewed on the national CFUW website. Click on **BC Council** and then click on **BC Council Policy Book**.

Good work has been done but we need policy in many more areas. Some suggested issues are: homelessness, food security, agricultural land reserve, equal rights for women in sport, support for the mentally handicapped, after school child care and climate change. Please take the lead and help us develop policy so we can advocate for others.



### The Membership Manual

Susan Murphy in her capacity as Vice-President of BC Council undertook to email The CFUW Membership Manual revised September 2008 to the BC Council Executive, Regional Directors and club presidents. The manual is also posted on the CFUW website on the Members Only home page – under Latest News. In the interests of saving paper and mailing costs, this manual has not been printed.

Director of Membership Marylea Burt has advised that additional information on attracting student members will be available soon, and recommends looking on the IFUW website for information on attracting members too.

The manual will be of interest to club membership chairs. Susan has requested that if clubs would like to give feedback on the manual, have questions, or want additional information, please contact your Regional Director.

## Legislation Report

by Louise Corrall

I am delighted to return to active participation in BC Council with the transition this August to the presidency of Susan Murphy. Having been a member of the Nanaimo club for 14 years and now with the Vancouver club for 13 years, I value the many friendships through CFUW in these communities. I hope I can bring some understanding of the difference in experience many of our members have – large clubs and small, metro, urban and rural. Please let me know how we are doing.

Following the May AGM in Prince George where delegates adopted new policy on Fair Opportunities for Women and Children in Polygamous Communities and Violence Prevention School Based Programs we have begun discussion on how best to proceed to make our collective voices heard. Further, at the CFUW AGM in Montreal, policy was adopted on Workplace Bullying and Psychological Harassment in the Workplace, Preventing Healthcare Facility Acquired Infections, Student Debt, Closing the Gap in Living Standards for Aboriginal Canadians, and an emergency resolution on Banning Cluster Munitions. I have begun work with Susan Murphy, who draws on her substantial experience in government, and has spearheaded preparation of a brief which will go to the Budget 2009 Consultations. We will work together to promote CFUW policy in the context of where provincial money should be spent. Next we plan to prepare a report on newly enacted policy and strategies for advocacy, including draft letters which may be adapted to be relevant to the local concerns of BC clubs. We have plans to meet with elected members of government in order to further represent the wishes of our members.

If you have experience in the area of advocacy, and/or if this is of interest to you, and you are willing to participate in collaboration of ideas and workload, please contact me at [corrall@shaw.ca](mailto:corrall@shaw.ca)

### Highlights from the Council Executive Meeting September 10, 2008

All fourteen members attended the Council Executive meeting held September 10 in Richmond.

**Outreach:** Susan Murphy, Council President plans to meet with the other Project 5-O organizations that are represented in British Columbia – Zonta, Council of Women, Soroptimists, Business and Professional Women, to share information and concerns.

**Appointments:** Marg Picard, RD BC West was appointed as Council Vice President, and Sheila Thompson, CFUW Abbotsford, was appointed as the Council Archivist.

**Goals for 2008-10 were adopted:** (See President's message, Page 1)

**Brief:** Council Executive will be submitting a brief to the budget consultation 2008, the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. A copy of the brief will then be circulated to all Clubs.

**Council Dues to Remain at \$1:** At the BC Council AGM 2008, some members of the voting body expressed concern that profits from AGMs were being used to defray deficits in the

## Early Childhood Education & Daycare What Changes Are Proposed? To Be Continued? Will We See In Our Schools?

by Louise Corrall

On 8th October, UWC Vancouver hosted a lecture in a series on Public Education at Hycroft. This was a timely discussion on education, early childhood, and daycare.

Our speaker was Dana Brynelson, Provincial Director of the Infant Development Program. Her topic was Early Childhood and Daycare. Are children ready for school at a younger age? Will the use of existing space in schools for daycare and preschool programs be discontinued? How will the squeeze for resources and space be reflected within the schools?

Bill 20 made important changes to our education system. These changes include: vouchers being issued for private education expenses; centralised power in the hands of a Ministry appointee who now has authority over elected school boards; achievement being evaluated through standardized testing; and adding the responsibility for early learning and community literacy to school boards, without sufficient financial resources being allocated to implement the programs.

Public education is a national resource. Societies benefit from the talent of all their citizens, and no single segment of society has a monopoly on talent. It is therefore good business to educate all our citizens well. Yet, we watch as 46 per cent of students from Canada's wealthiest families attend university, and only 20 percent of those from lowest-income families do the same, with even fewer of these graduating.

When education is not widely accessible, the effect is to perpetuate, rather than alleviate, inequity. It was disconcerting to read in the *Vancouver Sun* of August 27th/08, that BC public school enrolment is expected to reach 542,509 students this September, down 55,000 from in 2001. At the same time, enrolment in BC private schools is expected to reach 69,000 this fall up from 57,000 in 2001.

The University Women's Club is a strong supporter of quality public education and we hope that you will give your support.

(cont'd from previous column)

Council budget, while Clubs were paying a lesser share. In an informal show of hands, there was support for a proposal to increase club dues at the next AGM. A discussion paper was prepared for the Council Executive, and Martha Dagg, Treasurer, led the discussion.

Based on the Council's very positive financial position, the Council Executive approved a motion to retain BC Council dues at \$1 per member until accumulated reserve funds are at \$7,500. If any deficit occurs, it would be offset by accumulated funds in the current account and the reserve account.

Consideration of an increase in club dues would take place at that time.

**AGM Prince George:** Convener, RD Donna Brundige, reported that the budgeted number of attendees ( 80 ), did attend the AGM. The AGM was deemed a success, and on the whole, feed-back was very positive. A profit of \$2,500 was raised, due in large part to two major sponsorships obtained by the Prince George Club.



### Important Dates

BC West Gathering  
Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Presidents Gathering  
Thompson/Okanagan/Prince  
George Clubs-

Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>  
in Kelowna

National Board Meeting Ottawa  
January 23-25<sup>th</sup>

Resolutions Intent to Submit  
November 1<sup>st</sup>

Resolutions Draft Deadline  
December 1<sup>st</sup>

Mid-year

BC Council Executive Meeting  
Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>



### Membership

- a Key Issue for BC Council

Do you have a club member or friend who is moving to a new community? Put her in touch with the CFUW club in her new city or town – a great way to welcome her.

Do you know someone in a community where there is no CFUW club? Do you have any ideas about starting a club in a new community? We want to work on groundwork for the development of new clubs. Contact your Regional Director or Past President Fran Mitchell with your ideas. Fran is taking on this role as ambassador for CFUW BC Council.

DID YOU KNOW? That our 2007/08 total membership in British Columbia was 2,105. Let's increase that in 2008/09!

### *Seven BC Clubs Win Prizes at AGM*

Congratulations to the six BC clubs that won **Special Project Awards** at the AGM in Montreal.

**CFUW Nelson and District** for their Kootenay Inspiration Calendar and note cards

**CFUW Prince George** – for their public forum on Child Care

**CFUW Salt Spring Island** – for their Hope project providing scholarships for girls in developing countries

**CFUW Sunshine Coast** – for their public forum, “Women’s Dialogue”

**UWC Vancouver** – for their series on homelessness

**CFUW White Rock/Surrey** – for their parent/child drop in centre, “Umoja”.

And to **CFUW Vernon** for winning a Membership Award, increasing their CFUW membership by more than 10%.



*photo by Lois Hunter*

White Rock/Surrey President Rosemary Zelinka presenting a Certificate of Recognition for a Special Project Award from CFUW National to Jane McNamara, Education Chair. The special award was presented to the CFUW White Rock/Surrey Club for the ‘Umoja’ African Women’s and Children’s Drop-In Project.

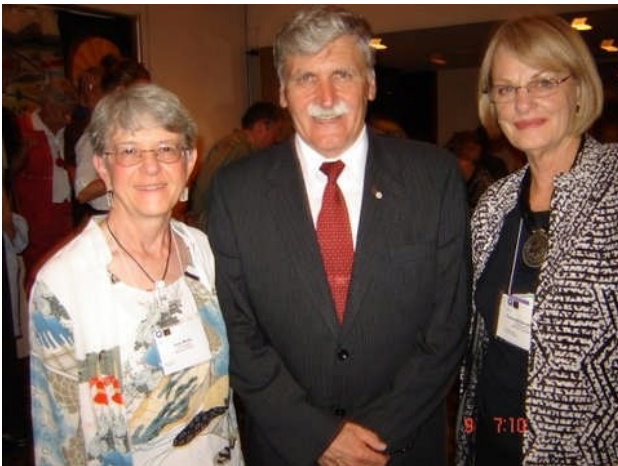
*CFUW AGM in Montreal  
August 2008*



***OUR NEW NATIONAL CFUW PRESIDENT***

**Patricia DuVal**, a mother of three, was elected President 2008-2010 at the recent CFUW AGM in Montreal. Bilingual, Ms. DuVal has served as President of the Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club and Vice President, Quebec.

Over the past 30 years, she has held various positions in the computer field, including programmer, systems analyst and project manager at such diverse companies as Sun Life Assurance, Pfizer Pharmaceutical, Alcan, *Le Journal de Montreal* and Bombardier Aerospace. During her lengthy career, she found that her work required negotiation, teamwork, organizational skills and the ability to get things done. It also gave her experience working with "virtual" teams such as CFUW, whose members are in different physical locations. In her own words, "The world changes and we do not want to lose, through complacency, what our mothers and grandmothers fought so hard to achieve, and what so many women around the world never had. Working as a team we can move forward in this new century." (*from CFUW Richmond Newsletter*)



Clockwise top left.

Lieutenant-General (ret) Romeo Dallaire guest speaker at Federation banquet. flanked by Susan Murphy (l) and Suzanne André (CFUW Nanaimo) Marg Picard of CFUW Richmond and Helen Christiansen of White Rock/ Surrey during resolutions.

Donna Brundige of CFUW Prince George, Louise Corral of UWC Vancouver and Fran Mitchell of CFUW Richmond take a rest with three friends in Old Montreal.



## Lydia Cacho in Vancouver

by Maureen Johnston  
Chair, Status of Women

On June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Norrie Valencia arranged for award winning journalist and human rights activist, Lydia Cacho to be the keynote speaker at a Forum on Human Trafficking at the downtown SFU campus. Norrie asked for my assistance in arranging a press conference on the 27th. Among those I personally invited was Phyllis Scott, who had the opportunity to meet Lydia, and ask her to speak at the IFUW AGM in Mexico City in 2010. Lydia agreed to do so.

Lydia's story is one of amazing courage and dignity. She is a journalist based in Mexico. She uncovered a child porn and trafficking ring and wrote a book about it (Los demonios del eden - "Demons in Eden"). For that she was detained, jailed and tortured. The information reached too close to the top and the 'powers' wanted to shut her up. Once released on bail the attacked became attacker and she started a court action claiming that her human rights had been grossly violated.

Only recently the Supreme Court of Mexico, in an outrageous decision, decided six against her and four in support - six votes for impunity, corruption, gender inequality, exploitation of the most vulnerable, and four votes for hope. However, Lydia has decided to stay and fight for change from within her country. She receives constant death threats and she has received international recognition for her courage. It was a wonderful weekend, with workshops on Saturday morning, and Lydia's keynote address Saturday afternoon. It was a truly inspirational weekend, with an amazing woman.

## In Memoriam Margaret Strongitharm, C.M.



CFUW is sad to announce that Margaret Strongitharm C.M. died on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in Nanaimo. She was in her 90s and is survived by her four children.

Margaret Strongitharm was an early member of the Nanaimo Club where she was active for many years. She was President of the Nanaimo Club from 1951-1953. In 2005, on the club's 60th Anniversary, Margaret was presented with a Certificate of Recognition of 55 years of membership.

Margaret was also the National President of CFUW from 1982 to 1985. During those years, the head office of CFUW was located in the home city of the National President and Margaret presided over the last such office. She was instrumental in establishing a permanent CFUW head office in our nation's capital of Ottawa, where over twenty years later, we all recognize the value and advantage of a daily CFUW presence there.

Margaret was passionately involved in her community for most of her life. She was, a city councillor, school board member, and it was, in part, due to her efforts that the Nanaimo Arts Council was created and her support was instrumental in getting the Port Theatre built. Her work was noticed and rewarded several times over. She was appointed Freeman of the City of Nanaimo, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Malaspina University College and in 2000 she was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

## UWC Vancouver New Initiative

by Louise Corral

UWC Vancouver is currently in the midst of a membership drive – new members, returning members, and CFUW members who are interested in having a **dual membership**. Regular Open Houses will give prospective members the opportunity to meet us, tour Hycroft, and investigate the advantages of membership. Some perks of membership include use of Hycroft for meetings, interest groups, and events; favourable rental rates for personal events at Hycroft; and our amazing members and interest groups.

Many events hosted by UWC Vancouver are open to guests, members of CFUW clubs, and the public. Should you hear of something that interests you, please contact our office at 604-731-4661 or email [uwcvc@uwcvcancouver.ca](mailto:uwcvc@uwcvcancouver.ca) to enquire.

Owning Hycroft affords us the advantage of a place to present speakers, musical events, conferences, workshops, fundraisers, and parties ranging from coffee gatherings to galas. This advantage does not come without a price. You may notice, when you read of our events, that there is a price for members and a different price for guests / public. While we are proud to be part of CFUW and to welcome CFUW members from other clubs, this discount available to UWCVC members because this represents our pre-paid overhead contribution in our \$600 annual dues. Whenever we host events, we must cover costs of overhead and staff plus the usual costs of entertainment such as refreshments and honoraria. We invite you to participate and warmly welcome your presence but hope you can understand our situation.

If you would like more information, please contact the office or Louise Corral, [corral@shaw.ca](mailto:corral@shaw.ca)

# News From the Clubs



## From CFUW Nanaimo

We have received some good news this summer. New member Cathy Ringham has been awarded a CIHR Masters award, a \$17,500 scholarship. Cathy has completed her BSN and is now entering a Master's Program at UVic.

**Congratulations on your achievement Cathy!**



photo by Lois Hunter

I. to r. Diana Sells, Carol Hendrickson, Jane McNamara, Bobbie Docking, Jean Putman, Anne Lowe

## From CFUW White Rock/Surrey

On a splendid warm and sunny evening the Dames Who Dine interest group of CFUW WR/Sur. held their (getting to be) annual celebration of Canada Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Elva Reid's home on Crescent Beach. Dames Who Dine usually eat out, but this event is potluck. The cuisine was more than 'just us', members cooked up dishes from all over the world.

## From CFUW West Vancouver

Two very popular new events billed as "strictly fun and socializing - no business!" were held this summer. Organizers Margaret Ramsay, Madge Wiesman, Pat Murray and June Coe planned a summer picnic at Dundarave Beach in July and a swim and dinner party at June's home in August.

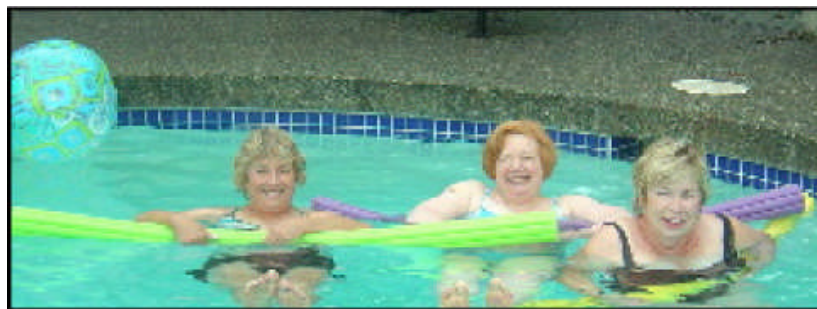
Members have been busy this September distributing brochures and posters for 2 events that were planned last year. Along with CFUW North Vancouver, we produced a brochure The Power of One-Vote! encouraging people to get out and vote in the federal election and highlighting Child Care as one of the crucial issues in this election.

As well on October 5th, both clubs were pleased to present Daphne Bramham, Vancouver Sun columnist and author of The Secret Lives of Saints, as part of Capilano University's Ikon speaker series.

*from Eleanor Scarth*

### Editor's Note

*Your club newsletters will be used for information. If you have other highlights that would be of interest to other clubs, please send them to me. [cfuwbccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwbccouncil@gmail.com) Winter issue deadline is January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009*



Despite the downpour, fifteen CFUW WV members and friends gathered on August 20th to enjoy a lively event. Three hardy souls, **Val Kittler**, **Louise Adams** and her friend **Sue Foley-Currie**, braved the drizzle to frolic in the pool while those on the balcony lauded their fortitude. A delicious supper followed - a fine opportunity to sit and chat. Many thanks to **June Coe** for convening this delightful summer social activity at her home!

CFUW West Vancouver's Picnic was a happy event indeed. All mixed and mingled: some new members joined us for the fun. All comers were accommodated with tables in both sun & shade. We all agreed we needed more excuses to come down to the Beach. Same time, next year? Grand entrance made by **Frances Cluett**, on her Scooter - quite brave considering the off sidewalk terrain wasn't easy to navigate. Well done Fran!





*October*  
*Women's History Month*

The 'famous five' Nellie McClung (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Emily Murphy and Irene Parlby.

Reminder that October is **Women's History Month** – the Government of Canada designated October as Women's History Month in 1992 in acknowledgement of the historic Persons Case and of women's contributions, past and present, to Canadian life.



**VOTE**  
**October 14th**

Remember to **vote** and encourage other women to vote in the upcoming federal election. It's only 43 years ago, in 1965, that the first woman from British Columbia, Grace MacInnis, was elected to the House of Commons. It's only fifteen years ago, in 1993, that Canada had its first and only female Prime Minister - Kim Campbell, from British Columbia.



**CFUW Richmond**

host club

**2009**

**Provincial AGM & Conference**

**MOSAIC**

**APRIL 24 - 26**

Airport Plaza hotel  
phone 604 278-5555,  
1-800-663-2878

[www.executivehotels.net](http://www.executivehotels.net)

7311 Westminster Hwy.

\$119.00 plus taxes

Available for 3 days before and  
after

April 24 to 26..

Ask for CFUW AGM rate. There is  
a 48 hour cancellation time prior to  
the arrival date for no penalty.



**CHRISTMAS AT HYCROFT 2008**

**Thursday & Friday**

**10am to 9pm**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**10am to 6pm**

**\$10 Adults**

**\$2 Children under 12**

*Bring family and friends to see our Edwardian mansion, Hycroft, decorated from top to bottom in spectacular Christmas array; enjoy our music and entertainment; shop in our Christmas shop; support charity boutiques; visit the Artisan's Village; tell Santa what you are wishing for; shop for unique kitchen gifts, seasonal baking and candy in the Coach House; socialise and enjoy delicious food in the bistro. If this doesn't put you in the mood for Christmas, we don't know what will!*