

IN TOUCH

The Power of Women Working Together

December 2025, Vol 44, Issue 4

This Issue

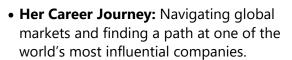
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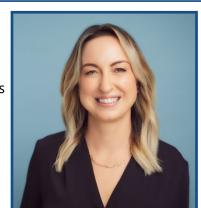


January's Speaker: **Kim Rellinger**An Insider's View: What It's Really Like Working at Google in the Age of AI

You hear about Google and AI in the news but what is it actually like to work there right now?

Join Kim Rellinger, a 13-year Google veteran, as she pulls back the curtain on the tech giant during the AI revolution. Perfect for those outside the industry, Kim will share an engaging, non-technical look at:





- The Perks and the Profit: Get an insider's perspective on the famous employee benefits and the surprisingly simple ways Google and YouTube make money.
- Al You Can Use: A glimpse into the powerful new Al tools—from those that simplify your everyday life to those creating major breakthroughs.

When she's not at the Google office, Kim is an avid traveller who loves scuba diving, hiking, and enjoying a great glass of wine with family and friends. Come for the insight, and stay for the Q&A!

We are looking forward to our next General Meeting with you on Monday January 19, 2026 via Zoom.

At our **Holiday Dinner** on December 8 our speaker will be **Carole Bertuzzi Luciani**,

A Mood-ivational Speaker... to tickle your funny bone **How to Be Buoyant in the Turbulence**

We would like to remind those who are coming that doors open at 6 pm for mingling, and seating is at 6:50 pm. Please bring some cash for the 50/50 draw and the Guide Dog Charity.

Address: Oakville Conference Centre, 2515 Wyecroft Road. We'll kick off the season together!

From our Leadership Team

Dear CFUW Members,

As we celebrate this Holiday Season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary legacy and spirit that define CFUW. For over 75 years our organization has been a powerful voice for education, equality, and community service. What makes CFUW truly unique is not only the depth of our history, but the dedication, insight, and generosity each of you brings to our shared mission.

During this time of gratitude and connection, we are reminded of the meaningful ways our contributions continue to strengthen our communities—through scholarships, advocacy, lifelong learning, and local initiatives that support women and girls. This year, members voted to support The Lions Foundation Dog Guides at our upcoming Holiday Dinner. These achievements are possible because of the passion and commitment of our members.

To our volunteers: thank you. Your time, leadership, and energy are the heart of CFUW. Everything we accomplish—every program, event, and outreach effort—happens because of your unwavering dedication. You embody the values that have sustained our organization for generations.

As we look forward to the year ahead, let us continue to build on this remarkable tradition and carry the spirit of generosity and community into the future. I am deeply grateful for all that you do.

Wishing you a joyful Holiday Season and a bright New Year.

With appreciation,

Your Leadership Team, Katherine, Kyoko, and Palma





See a recent edition of the OC newsletter: November 2025

Ontario Council organizes many events throughout the year. See a list **here.**

In particular, all members are welcome to attend the Speakers Series. The next Speakers Series event will be on February 21, 2026 via Zoom.

Topic: Critical Thinking and AI



Click on the date to read a recent newsletter from **CFUW National.**

November 7, November 14, November 21, November 28

For special information about nominations for Board positions at CFUW National click <u>here.</u>

CFUW Oakville is happy to have the support of several local businesses who pay for advertising in each newsletter and in our Directory.

Please consider using their services and telling others about them.



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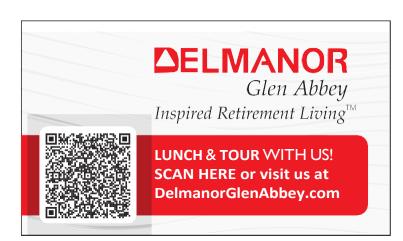
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The Art of Well Being

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Business Supporters

I do know that our CFUW Oakville members are busy people who often just quickly scan In Touch for new information and just as quickly go past our page of advertisers. These businesses have regularly contributed to our Club's finances for many years and I do hope that you show your appreciation of this support by using their services when you can. From time to time we'll offer you more details about them....below is the first such article.

Pat Zelonka, editor of In Touch

CFUW Members,

My business is **TW Painting** and we offer residential interior and exterior painting.

TW Painting is a small independently owned painting business established in 2010. We are based in Oakville and work in the surrounding GTA region. We pride ourselves on our attention to detail both in our work and our care for your home whilst we complete your project. We only use the industry's best paints to complete your work to the highest standards. We strive to be efficient in responding to your inquiry, providing a free quote and completing your work in a suitable timeframe. We have been advertising in the CFUW Newsletter and Directory annually since we have been in business and have had many happy CFUW customers. Here is just one referral from CFUW Member Louise Brownlee.

"In 2017, my husband and I fulfilled a retirement dream and drove across the US and back through Canada - celebrating Canada's 150th birthday by watching fireworks in Banff. During the five weeks we were away, Alex painted most of our downstairs - family room, halls, bedrooms, bathrooms etc. We felt completely confident leaving Alex with the house key.

What a delight to come home to a house transformed with fresh paint and a new look. I highly recommend the work of Alex Jeneway!"

With Christmas fast approaching, maybe it is time to freshen up the dining room ready for the family Christmas lunch, or does the powder room need a new coat of paint as you entertain over the festive period? We are offering a 10% discount to all CFUW members and their families that mention this article, on jobs booked before 31st of December 2025.

Please check our website <u>www.twdecorating.com</u> and instagram @tw_decorating for more photos of work we have completed.

Alex Jeneway





BEFORE

AFTER

Advancement of Women Halton

Advancement of Women Halton (AWH) Report December 2025

AWH is a non-partisan coalition of 20 community groups located in the Region of Halton which seeks to promote the advancement of women. CFUW Oakville is a member. See the AWH November newsletter to see what is happening. https://awhalton.com/awhsome-the-awh-newsletter/



Below is a sampling of what was discussed at a recent meeting and a summary of the National Housing Day.

1. Funding to keep patients at home was announced by the Minister of Health in August. The goal is to help transition patients home from hospitals and to provide more services to keep patients at home to stabilize and prevent the need to move to Long Term Care (LTC). Surveys indicate that 90% of respondents want to stay at home as long as possible and avoid LTC.

Help to access home care is available. See:

https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/50033d_3712d75cfddd424fb0ca5de2b6d9ed29.pdf

2. National Housing Day, November 21 organized by Community Development Halton Three Core Issues within the housing crisis:

a) Homelessness is visualized by growing encampments

Since 2018 unsheltered homelessness is up by 185%, and emergency shelters are operating at 140%.

All 5,404 assisted housing units in Halton are fully occupied leaving 8,048 households on the waiting list.

Criminalizing homeless is not a solution.

A very small group of people choose to live outside.

Lack of affordable housing causes homelessness.

b) Renter affordability challenges (30% income for housing)

Oakville average rent for two bedroom is about \$2,150, which requires a \$44.80 per hour wage (CCPA)

c) Inability to access home ownership

Average home price September 2025 in Halton Region was \$1.19 million (Inside Halton, 2025). Average home sale price since September 2015 in Halton Region has increased by 79.8%. Inflation rate in Ontario 2015 to 2025 is 29.8% (BofC).

Money is available for Supportive Housing

Halton has set aside about \$200 million to build more supportive housing.

Supportive housing will be built if there is community support.

Politicians react to community voices.

There have been several proposals to build rental housing units. Neighbours are sometimes slow to accept change. Hence, the desperately needed rental new build initiative do not pass at council.

Continued on next page

Advancement of Women Halton

Continued from previous page

What can you do?

- a. Attend council meeting to support rental housing or supportive housing projects. At a recent rental building proposal on 6th Line Oakville, over a hundred angry neighbours attended a council meeting. Seven people were present to support a new supportive housing building sponsored by five non-profits including Home Suite Hope that help young mothers go back to school with wrap around services (rent, childcare, food, etc).
- b. Vote in municipal election October 2026 for candidates that will champion supportive housing projects.
- c. Champion supportive housing which is cheaper than health care, hospitalization, incarceration, police and court services.
- d. Ask your MPP why they did not attend the local National Housing Day program.

Submitted by Anne Douglas

You might like to see more from the Holiday Dinner speaker, Carole Bertuzzi Luciani. Here are some useful links:

Websites: Personal site: www.carolebertuzziluciani.com

CBL Presentations Inc.: www.moodivator.ca

Blogs: www.ihaveastoryforyou.com
www.ihaveastoryforyou.com



You could also read about <u>Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides here</u>. This is the charity chosen to be sponsored at the Holiday Dinner this year.

Scholarship Fund News



Due to the fact that most of our meetings are hybrid, the Scholarship Committee will plan a book sale for only the September meeting each year when there will hopefully be a large turnout.

There will be a reminder of this sale in the September newsletter and members will be able to bring copies of recent fiction books to donate and, of course, to buy books at \$5 per book or five books for \$20.



Advocacy

Violence against Women

December 6 will soon be upon us once again! Why is this a significant date and why should it not go unrecognized? It has been declared a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. For no other reason than they were females enrolled at Ecole Polytechnique, Genevieve Bergeron, Helene Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maude Haviernick, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, Maryse Laganiere, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michele Richard, Annie St-Arneault and Annie Turcotte lost their lives on December 6, 1989. Could it happen again? Could it be your daughter or granddaughter? Imagine how sad it must have been at Christmas that year for the families of these young women! If it was your daughter or granddaughter would you want Canadians to forget this tragic event?

Although the December 6 massacre was not an act of intimate partner violence it was an act of violence against women. Thirty-six years later intimate partner violence has not been declared an epidemic in Ontario although it certainly is! Did you know that 25% in the Skilled Trades are women who have experienced a violent relationship?

Then there is violence against women in politics! This remains a serious problem in Canada. As a woman is it fair to be frightened or deterred from engaging in politics? Have you wondered why women are still underrepresented in all levels of politics? Many women parliamentarians have received threats of death, rape, beatings or kidnapping!

Violence against women has not gone away! What helps individuals to take action?

Knowledge Awareness of the harms Peer support and encouragement Empathy for the victim Perceived responsibility and skills to intervene Personal belief in gender equity

Some Suggestions:

- Wear a white ribbon on December 6
- ♦ Donate to a women's shelter
- Buy books for girls that promote STEM or adventure
- Check in on a friend whose new relationship seems unsafe
- ♦ Sign Kristyn Tam Wong's petition
- "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."
 Maya Angelou

Diane McCullough, Advocacy Committee Chair

Interest Group Activities

Aging Collaboratively

After a summer and fall hiatus, our interest group will begin meeting on the fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month, beginning January 27th from three thirty to five or so. Our meetings are both in person and on zoom, to accommodate those who prefer a cup of tea and conversation and those who find it more convenient to attend virtually.

Our group is informal and begins with a round table discussion of relevant information we have read, heard or discussed since our last meeting. We follow a number of advocacy and information organizations who are influencing the context in which we will age. Health and wellness, housing, caregiving, family and social inclusion remain the focus. A visit to the new Wellness Hub in Burlington, a conversation with those planning new home care models and a new supportive housing model were some agenda topics from the last year. Our thinking and our personal planning have evolved, with the support of a lovely group of women who enjoy talking about their own experiences as we inform ourselves of latest research and emerging government policy.

Please feel free to join us, by giving Janice May a call or an email for details of our next meeting.

Janice May, convenor of Aging Collaboratively

A recent field trip of the group included wine tasting and a ride on the Port Dalhousie antique carrousel. Fun is definitely part of aging collaboratively!





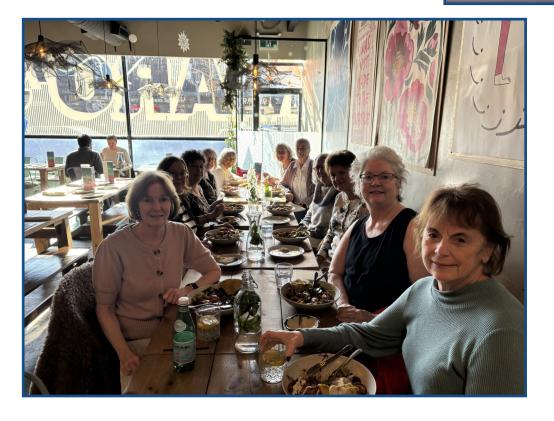
Crime and Caffeine II had their November lunch/book club meeting as we discussed the Spy Coast by Tess Gerritsen under Hefina's guidance!

Gloria Tomlinson

Interest Group Activities



Gourmet III had a Greek feast on November 13 at the home of Susan Stavin. We enjoyed Hummus appetizers, Avgolemono soup, Pastitisio (Greek lasagna), Salad, Greek bread, Greek yogurt parfaits and of course Greek wine. OPA!!



Ladies at Lunch went to Maro's on Kerr Street on November 20. Their menu is Middle Eastern and all dishes were unique and very good. Thanks to Joyce See for organizing this month's outing!

Interest Group Activities



Happy Hikers and a huge tree at Silver Creek Trail on a sunny November 4.



Twelve of us from **Social Eves** went to the Gardiner Museum on November 26. We had an excellent guided tour. The docent focused on one artefact in each of several galleries. We learned about the new Indigenous exhibit, the difference between earthenware and porcelain, what is bone china and many other facts. After our tour we enjoyed a lovely lunch at the museum's Clay Restaurant.

Interest Group Activities for December 2025 and January 2026 New and returning members who would like to join one of these groups are encouraged to let the Interest Group Chair know at info@cfuwoakville.ca. They will try to accommodate your wishes.

Book Discussion and Exchange Clubs, morning or evening. Members of these book clubs choose books to read and discuss each month. 'Playing With Ideas' members read one short selection each month from an anthology.

Name		Convenor	Date and Time
BookBeat AM	1	Angela Hantoumakos	1st Wednesday @ 10:00 am Dec: <i>The Half Sister,</i> Jones Jan: <i>The Other Einstein,</i> Benedict
	II	Marla Newton Martina Eisleb	4th Wednesday @ 1:00 pm OPEN
BookBeat PM	I	Charlotte Jeneway	Last Thursday @ 7:30 pm Jan: <i>Paris Express,</i> Donoghue OPEN
	II	Mary Wood	1st Wednesday @ 7:00 pm Dec: Another Woman's Husband, Paul Jan: The Island of Sea Women, See OPEN
	Ш	Helen Litton	First Tuesday @ 7:30 pm Bluebird, Graham; Briar Club, Quinn
Crime & Caffeine	I	Leigh Mayers	Last Monday @ 1:30 pm OPEN
	II	Carolyn Collings Merk	4th Monday @ 1:30 pm Jan: <i>Death on the Island</i> , Read
	III	Susan Walkinshaw	2nd Monday @ 1:30 pm Dec: <i>The Guest List,</i> Foley Jan: <i>The Woman in Suite 11</i> , Ware
Central Book Exchange		Marion Davis	Books are chosen in September for the year,
West End Book Exchange		Sue Stephens	Books are chosen in September for the year,
We the North Book Exchange		Joan Dunn	Books are chosen in September for the year, On Isabella Street, Graham An Accidental Villain, MacIntyre
Literary Ladies		Pam Schwartz	1st Thursday @ 10:00 am Dec: <i>Austen at Sea,</i> Jenner Jan: <i>On Isabella Street,</i> Graham
Playing with Ideas			4th Thursday @ 9:30 am OPEN

Bridge, Scrabble and other Board games: Friendly social groups to test one's skill and enjoy different scenarios.

Name	Convenor	Date and Time
Marathon Bridge	Margaret Pospisil Laurie Nordin-MacLeod	Times vary through the month. OPEN
Word Power through Scrabble	Wanda Crichton Lyndsey Thom	2nd Tuesday @ 1:00 pm OPEN to 1 more member

Exploring Ideas Together: <u>Issues to Advocacy</u> presents an opportunity to educate ourselves on current issues and explore ideas together. <u>Aging Collaboratively</u> members want to discover the possibilities to create a better journey later in life; <u>Beyond Bloomsbury</u> members meet once a month to listen to speakers and discuss topics of interest such as health, politics, education, art and literature.

Name		Convenor	Date and Time
Advocacy Committee		Diane McCullough	2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 pm OPEN
Aging Collaboratively		Janice May	4th Tuesday @ 3:30 pm beginning January 27 OPEN
Beyond Bloomsbury	I	June Cockwell	4th Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Meditation and Mindfulness Evening Meditation enjoys the relaxation of a guided meditation followed by a group discussion. <u>Mindfulness and Meditation</u> explores through readings, discussions and practice and <u>Psychology / Spirituality</u> explores the human soul in a cheerful and friendly atmosphere. Research is shared and discussed.

Name		Convenor	Date and Time	
Evening Meditation		Leanne Siracusa	2nd Tuesday @ 8:00 pm OPEN	
Mindfulness and Meditation	_	Jeanne Crockatt Reet Kazakoff	3rd Tuesday @ 10:00 am OPEN	
	=	Chris Connell	1st Thursday @ 1:30 pm OPEN	
Psychology and Spirituality		Sue McArthur	2nd Thursday @ 9:30 am	

Celebrating Good Food and Conversation: Gourmet groups meet monthly to share fine food, menus, recipes and good company; Ladies@Lunch is a fun group that meets monthly for lunch and socializing; Foodie World Adventures members enjoy cooking, baking and experimenting with unusual ingredients from around the world. Social Eves focuses on exploring a wide variety of interests and topics while providing an opportunity to socialize, network and have lots of fun. Couples' Chat and Chow: Couples dine out on a weekday evening

Name		Convenor	Date and Time
Gourmet	ı	Alison Gemmell	2nd Thursday @ 6:30 pm
Couring	II	Anne Douglas	2nd Thursday @ 6:30 pm
	Ш	Laurie Nordin-MacLeod Sue Stephens	2nd Thursday @ 6:30 pm
	IV	Krystyna Skrabka	4th Thursday @ 5:00 pm OPEN
Ladies @ Lunch		Lise Moras	3rd Thursday @ 12:30 pm OPEN
Social Eves		Marjorie Bell Nancy Stavert	4th Wednesday, Jan 28, Zoom with Ian Elliott, A Different Drummer bookstore OPEN
Foodie World Adventures		Eva Baxter	3rd Wednesday, time TBD
Bakers Club		Hilary Vavasour	3rd Tuesday @ 2:00 pm
Bronte Neighbourhood Group		Sheila Aldoroty	TBD OPEN
The Singles Network		Dianne Murphy	Dates and times of events are determined by participants OPEN
Couples' Chat and Chow		Leanne Siracusa	Weeknight, during the last week of the month OPEN

Physical Activity: <u>Dragon Boating</u>, <u>Golf</u>, and <u>Happy Hikers</u> are opportunities for members to participate in the activities they enjoy, in the company of friends and other members; <u>Walking with Friends</u> chooses flat paved routes.

Name		Convenor	Date and Time
Dragon Boating		Judy Pielsticker Susan Stavin	OPEN Any CFUW members who are interested in Dragon Boating are asked to contact Susan Stavin or Judy Pielsticker
Golf		Katherine Beaudry Angie Vassallo	OPEN
Happy Hikers	I	Marcia Hays Jane Underwood	Tuesday am, weather permitting, Sept. to June
	II	Wanda Crichton Judith Setton	Wednesday am, bi-weekly, weather permitting, Sept. to June OPEN
Pickleball		Katherine Beaudry	Wednesday @ 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Walking with Friends		Brenda Walker Jane Jewitt	Mondays @ 9:15 am OPEN

Members of
Crime & Caffeine III
had lunch at the
Foundry Tavern in
Cambridge and
attended an
Agatha Christie play
"Witness for the
Prosecution"
We had a wonderful
time.

Susan Walkinshaw



University Women's Club of Oakville Scholarship Fund

CFUW Oakville Academic and Service Award: Menna Gebril

The CFUW Oakville Academic and Service Awards (one of three) require significant school/community service and leadership, as well as academic excellence. Financial need is a requirement for this award.



High School: T.A. Blakelock High School

Volunteering & Extra Curricular Activities:

Female Ambassador & Co-president of the Muslim Student Association 3 hours/week; VP Trainer, DECA 3 hours/week; Events Co-ordinator, Ayaat Foundation 5 hours/week; Camp Counsellor, Dar Foundation (summers);Co-founder and Program Lead Ila Salaty 60 hours; Co-founder, Volunteer Through Passion 60 hours; Management Co-ordinator, Nisa Homes 125 hours; Program Lead, DEEN Support Services 120 hours; Strategy and Content Lead, Plotted Development 120 hours; Marketing Lead, LifeBridge Initiative 120 hours; Retreat Support, Seeds of Leadership 70 hours; Youth Engagement Lead, Seeds of Leadership 192 hours.

<u>Awards:</u> TEDxYouth Speaking Competition – second place winner (2023)

Tigers Leadership Award, (2023)

Hungry for Learning Award, Seeds of Leadership (2023)

Certificate of Outstanding Achievement, Seeds of Leadership 3-year Intensive Program Graduate (2024)

Academic Honour Roll, T.A. Blakelock HS (2021-2024)

Work Experience: Junior Consultant Chihab Group 10 hours/week

Post Secondary: University of Toronto, Rotman School of Business

Menna is a remarkable young woman who possesses natural leadership abilities, a courageous attitude, and a sincere desire to serve. Her dedication to family and community is unwavering, and her intellectual depth and strategic mindset have earned her recognition from both teachers and peers. As Co-president of the Muslim Student Association, Menna spearheaded the creation of an anti-Islamophobia intervention plan, which reshaped school policies and fostered a safer, more inclusive environment for Muslim students. Her leadership in DECA showcases her analytical skills and collaborative spirit under pressure.

Her volunteer work is extensive and includes serving as marketing lead for LifeBridge, where she helped register over 1,000 stem cell donors from underrepresented communities.

Menna was invited to participate in the prestigious Seeds of Leadership program, a rigorous, multi-year leadership journey. As part of this program, she led multiple community impact projects, including co-designing and implementing the DEEN Friends Network, a social connection program for adults with disabilities. The president of Seeds of Leadership has praised the high quality of Menna's work, noting that the program has continued beyond her direct involvement.

With a passion for empowering marginalized communities, Menna plans to study business, with the ultimate goal of establishing a consulting firm that provides strategic support to nonprofit organizations, social enterprises, and grassroots organizations.

Despite facing economic challenges, Menna prioritized her family's needs, sending her university savings to her grandfather for urgent medical care. Her selflessness, maturity, and leadership make her an exceptional candidate for this award. It is with great pleasure that the CFUW presents Menna Gebril with the CFUW Oakville Academic and Service Award.

CFUW Oakville Leadership Team Portfolio Contacts for 2025-2026

Kyoko Kobayashi	Katherine Beaudry	Palma Robinson
Meeting Venues, Rentals	Dinners	Scholarship
Finance	Interest Groups	Advocacy
Charitable Trust	National Contact	Programme
Technology	Ontario Council	Communications, Publicity
Membership		

CFUW Oakville Board for 2025-2026

	Executive Committee			
Leadership Team	Kyoko Kobayashi, Katherine Beaudry, Palma Robinson			
Secretary	Linda Williams, Helen Furman			
Treasurer	Jillian Birnie			
Standing Committee Chairs				
Advocacy	Diane McCullough			
Finance	Jillian Birnie			
Hospitality	Marlene Bristol			
Interest Groups	Christine Forber			
Membership	Sheila Aldoroty, Janis Fournier			
Newsletter Editor	Pat Zelonka			
Program	Susan Bowen			
Website / Social Media	Raine Greenwood			

CFUW Oakville – Committees by Appointment Chairs for 2025-2026

Committees by Appointment Chairs			
Archivist	Hilary Vavasour		
Nominations	Leadership Team		
Technology Kyoko Kobayashi			
Dinners Katherine Beaudry			

CFUW Oakville Event Calendar



Event	Location	Date	Time
National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women		Dec 6, 2025	
CFUW Oakville Holiday Dinner Carole Bertuzzi Lusiani, Moodivator	2515 Wyecroft Road	Dec 8, 2025	6:00 pm
Human Rights Day		Dec 10, 2025	
CFUW Oakville Board meeting	Zoom	Jan 5, 2026	7:00 pm
CFUW Oakville General Meeting, Kim Rellinger, Google, Al	Zoom	Jan 19, 2026	7:00 pm
CFUW Oakville Board meeting	Zoom	Feb 2, 2026	7:00 pm
CFUW Oakville General Meeting Jill Heinerth, Explorer in Residence	Zoom	Feb 16, 2026	7:00 pm
Ontario Council Speakers Series Critical Thinking and Al	Zoom	Feb 21, 2026	10:00 am
CFUW Oakville Board meeting	Zoom	Mar 2, 2026	7:00 pm
CFUW Oakville General Meeting Stephen Hott, Home Organizer	TPCC and Zoom	Mar16, 2026	7:00 pm
CFUW Oakville Board meeting	Zoom	Apr 6, 2026	7:00 pm
CFUW Oakville General Meeting Derek Gray, Elder Scams	TPCC and Zoom	Apr 20, 2026	7:00 pm
Spring Dinner	Oakville Conference Centre	May 4, 2026	6:00 pm

IN TOUCH is published for members and prospective members of CFUW Oakville, eight times a year. Deadline for submission is the Wednesday after the General Meeting (held on the third Monday of the month). All submissions should be directed to the Editor at editor@cfuwoakville.ca Advertising and hard copy distribution of the newsletter are co-ordinated by editor@cfuwoakville.ca. Please contact us for rates or to purchase advertising space.

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