cfuw the power of women working together



CFUW OAKVILLE

YEAR IN REVIEW 2019 - 2020

"SPUR ACTION"

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE: SPUR ACTION

The theme we chose for our co-presidency was 'Spur Action'. This theme resonated with us as it spoke to the need for action on the over-riding existential threat of climate change. Yet it also encompassed action in our traditional areas of concern – human rights, women, and children. We began our co-presidency with a look back at the history of CFUW and a look forward to actions to mitigate climate change. In both cases the focus was on action – the action Canadian women have done and will continue to do to have an impact in our areas of concern. And yet, we have ended our year of co-presidency in inaction! How did this come about?



CFUW:

A National Woman's organization of 8,000 members and 112 Clubs across Canada.

Last September, we began the familiar rhythm of general meetings, speakers and interest groups. December brought our holiday dinner and celebration of the 100th Anniversary of CFUW and the 70th Anniversary of CFUW-Oakville. January introduced a new century for CFUW clubs cross Canada with a new theme: "100 Years of Promoting Women's Rights: New Century: New Challenges."

Rapidly, some of these new challenges became clear. In March, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of COVID-19 viral infections. The declaration dramatically altered the remainder of our year and all of society around the country and the world. The March and April general meetings and the May year-end dinner all were cancelled. Interest group activities either moved on-line or were cancelled. The year has ended in "physical distancing" and "self-isolation" as we respond to the realities of life during the pandemic. How can we continue the focus on action during a time of enforced inaction? A closer look at our purpose may reveal the solution.

The core principles of our club, established in our Constitution, are:

- •To promote the pursuit of education and to maintain high standards of public education,
- •To participate actively in public affairs in educational, political, social and cultural fields, and to put our education and training at the service of the community,
- •To provide fellowship, support and networking for our members,
- •To work with our sister organizations at the local, provincial, national and international levels in pursuit of education for women and girls and social justice.

Our theme for this year, "Spur Action" embodies these principles and strongly encourages individual action, to work toward these principles with a particular emphasis on protecting the environment, reducing our own environmental footprint and increasing long term, equitable sustainability.

Life Long Learning... A Core Value

Commitment to learning about and identifying the factors that will influence our future.

Education and Enrichment

Our guest speakers provided an array of interesting learning experiences: early 20th century life in Oakville and the establishment of the Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre by Sybil Rampen; the development of a brain monitoring system to aid those with brain injuries; the evolution of Oakville Public Libraries to provide advanced media & computer services, and social services to the community; a discussion on well-being, emphasizing the development of positivity and resilience; environmental activism resulting in the preservation of the trumpeter swans and the establishment of Ontariogreen and the Glenorchy Conservation Area in north Oakville.

The club's 37 interest groups enriched our members with many diverse topics and activities: current and great literature, crime novels, bridge, Scrabble and games, gourmet world adventures and international restaurant cuisine, movie nights, MOOCs, Bloomsbury discussion groups, meditation and spirituality, and pickle ball, all while enjoying the friendship of other members. Sadly dragon boating and golf were cancelled and the hiking season was curtailed prematurely.

Our Mission:

To advocate on issues that affect women, children and the environment.

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

CFUW Oakville members actively support important public initiatives in the local, provincial, and national forums. This year, the Issues to Advocacy (I2A) and Every Action Matters (EAM) committees have been particularly active.

Issues to Advocacy has taken action on a number of files with letter writing campaigns to MPPs and MPs on cuts to education, health care, local amalgamation, preservation of the CBC, affordable housing, poverty, pharmacare and climate change.

Advocacy members participated in a public rally fighting cuts to health care and held a personal meeting with Anita Anand, the MP for Oakville, to emphasize our concerns about affordable housing, poverty and environmental issues. Members also attended presentations and discussions with trained climate advocate Aki Tanaka, the Halton Environmental Summit, a University of Toronto panel discussion with David Suzuki and Stephen Lewis, and the International Women's Day event on March 4, where the topic was "Education in War Zones" with Sally Armstrong. I2A also prepared an amendment to a CFUW National amendment, and organized the 6 resolutions from CFUW National for members to vote on electronically.

At a special event at Queen Elizabeth Park Community Centre on October 3, I2A, headed by Leanne Siracusa and Janis Fournier, partnered with the Halton Environmental Network to host one of the "100 Debates on the Environment" where the 5 federal election candidates in Oakville met in a debate format to respond to questions on important issues and then answer questions from the audience. It was an excellent, informative and well-attended community event.

Our Theme: Spur action!

Spur action on climate change! Spur action on social justice! On sustainability! On public education! Members of 'Every Action Matters' informed and challenged us with a series of monthly articles in the CFUW-Oakville newsletter on food waste, sustainable fashion, water, green investments, and transportation & greenhouse gas emissions – all with the focus on individual action on climate change. A community event in April to screen the film Closing the Loop, followed by a discussion, had been planned in partnership with the Halton Environmental Network and the Oakville Public Library, but unfortunately had to be cancelled.

In December, we recognized the women of CFUW-Oakville who have supported CFUW at the local, provincial and national levels. Darla Campbell, Teri Shaw, Sandra Thomson and Myra Willis were honoured at the national AGM as "Notable Women". The CFUW Sage Award was presented to Sybil Rampen and the CFUW National President's Pin was presented to Roberta Brooks. We are proud of their dedication to CFUW and beyond. Linda William and Mary Saunders were recognized for their work on the 1992 Women in Universities project.

In response to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, at each general meeting this year, one of their 94 recommendations was highlighted for action by our members. In particular, educational needs in native communities, women's issues, children's health, native music and culture, and local indigenous sites of interest were discussed.

Scholarship and Community Giving

A core mission of CFUW Oakville is the support of young women as they continue their education and strive toward their goals. The University Women of Oakville Scholarship Fund is the focus of our fundraising efforts throughout the year. This year the Scholarship Fund provided \$22,500 to 16 young women pursuing their education in art, science, medicine, business and technology. This is the largest amount of money that the club has ever given to the greatest number of winners. The details of these awards are given below. These young women have shown a commitment to service that is inspiring.

At our December Dinner, the "Lighthouse for Grieving Children" was the local charity chosen to receive our support for their psychological, emotional and social support for grieving children. We raised \$2,600 for this remarkable organization.

Transition and Adaptation

In March, CFUW-Oakville began a journey of transitioning from in-person meetings to online communication as the world adapts to the requirements of life during the pandemic. CFUW at the local, provincial and national levels moved online in ways that have allowed us to consult our members about provincial and national resolutions and motions, and vote on them.

CFUW National held a Town Hall, with 270 participants from St. John's to Vancouver Island, to respond to issues surrounding the Memorandum of Understanding with Graduate Women International and introduce mediation to resolve internal conflict on this issue. Annual general meetings at the local, provincial and national levels will be held on-line.

Since March, the CFUW-Oakville Board held its regular meetings on-line. Using a survey tool and email, the Board has consulted members about provincial and national motions and resolutions, and tabulated votes to go forward to the provincial and national AGMs.

As we move to re-open businesses and facilities, and the wonderful summer weather tempts us outside, we must remain vigilant, follow responsible guidelines and remember that we are living through a unique circumstance in our lifetime. There is no clear road ahead. This pandemic has underlined the importance of the actions of women as heads of state, parliamentarians, policymakers, physicians, scientists, health care workers and care givers for children and the aged. Women will continue to play a strong role in building global co-operation to create a sustainable future based on public health, resilient economies, climate protection and sustainable development goals.

Looking forward to the fall and a possible return to our meetings together, we are aware that <u>adaptation</u> is the key word – there may be new and different ways of doing things that will evolve as we proceed. We know that the advocacy and support role that our members exemplify in the community will continue.

We send a special thank you to all our members who have volunteered in many capacities as committee chairs, group co-ordinators, activity leaders and Board members during the year. The last months have required an extra effort on their part to support the transition to a new format that has been needed to meet our new circumstances. Spur action, indeed!

2019-2020 Board and Leadership Team



Left to Right Standing: Raine Greenwood; Jane Underwood; Deb Hindmarch; Sonia Ellis; Pat Hilmer; Bonnie Jensen; Louise Brownlee; Deb Hoffman; Lise Moras; Janis Fournier; Pat Zelonka; Lynda Sturgeoff; Hilary Vavasour; Sandra Gorlick; Gay Loveland; Chris Connell; Joyce See. Kneeling: Anne Douglas; Brenda Walker; Gloria Tomlinson; Susan Stavin; Leanne Siracusa. Missing: Janice May; Maureen Callahan; Leigh Mayers; Beth Poad; Marla Newton; Lisaura Lobo; Irina Constantinof

HELPING LOCAL WOMEN ACHIEVE THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Members of the Awards Committee of the University Women of Oakville Scholarship Fund reviewed numerous applications from publicly funded high schools in Oakville and selected 16 well qualified young women as winners. Each of Oakville's 9 high schools select a young woman from their school to receive a University/College Entrance Scholarship. The Awards Committee evaluates applications for all of our named awards.

2019 – 2020	Scholarship	Recipients
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Front row (from left): Lyndyl Smith, Lucia Qiao, Milica Pavlovic, Elizabeth Provost and Louise Dean; Second row: Onjoli Krywiak, Shannon Lee and Maggie Lin; Third row: Lucia Di Censo, Kathryn Austin and Meegan Rozon; Back row: Lana Hekmat and Jessica Mazze. Absent: Denise Morrison, Madison Tsoutsoulas, and Paula Gjokaj

Awards	#	Amount	Total
Mildred G. Allworth	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
University Entrance	10	\$1,000	\$10,000
Community Service			
Shirley Henderson	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
Jean Malcolm Smith	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
Performing Arts Award	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
Mature Student*	0	\$1.500	\$0
Access Award inspired by Melissa Vassallo	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
Miriam White Award*	0	\$1,000	\$0
70th Anniversary Scholarship	1		\$5,000
* No qualified applicants this year.			
TOTAL	16		\$22,500



University Women's Club of
Oakville Scholarship Fund Trustees
and Awards Committee: Darla
Campbell, Chair, Sue Stephens, CoChair; Kim Watt, Secretary; Julia
Barber, Treasurer; Marla Newton and
Beth Poad, Awards Committee (1 vote)

Awards Committee: Beth Poad (Cochair), Marla Newton (Cochair), Alison Gemmell, Carolyn Menka, Judy Pielsticker, Pat Hillmer, Laura Temple-Smith, and Carole McMahon

Ex Officio: Gay Loveland and Lynda Sturgeoff, Co-Presidents CFUW Oakville; Maureen Callahan, Treasurer, CFUW Oakville



ISSUES TO ADVOCACY

When we make life better for the most vulnerable, we make life better for everyone.



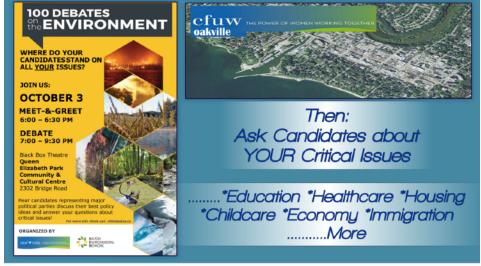
Issues to Advocacy:

Janis Fournier, Leanne
Siracusa, Gay Loveland,
Lynda Sturgeoff, Sandra
Gorlick, Anne Douglas,
Joyce See, Adele Hurley,
Brenda MacKay, Gail
Volterra, Bonnie Jensen,
Janice May, Raine
Greenwood, Mary
Saunders, Luba
Podolsky, Teri
Shaw

The **Issues to Advocacy** group keeps club members informed about current issues which affect women, children and populations in need. We have addressed multiple topics through resolutions which have been presented by different national clubs and, after being voted on, are made into CFUW policy. Advocacy members participate in the Ontario Speaker Series, AGM National and AGM Ontario Council, Advancement of Women meetings and community events. To keep informed we meet with federal, provincial and local politicians advocating for priority issues of concern. We have successfully partnered with HEN to present the 100 Debates on the Environment and other issues raised by the public. We are pursuing further collaborations with like-minded coalitions. Club members are kept informed and updated through articles in IN TOUCH and Advocacy Moments at the monthly general meetings.

Some Topics Discussed and Actions Taken

- Gun control
- Pharmacare
- Climate change events
- Enhancing partnerships
- Letter writing campaigns e.g. cuts to education, health care, amalgamation, CBC
- Affordable Housing and National Housing Day Participation
- Status of Women reports
- International Women's Day Dinner in March
- Ontario Health Coalition
- Fare Share
- 16 Days of Action to End Gender-based Violence (GBV)
- TRC Calls to Action
- Issues related to Indigenous Population
- Review and feedback re 6 Proposed Resolutions for AGM
- National resolution on Long Term Care: protect the vulnerable



ISSUES TO ADVOCACY

We Dialogue with Political Leaders:

This year several I2A members met with local Liberal MP Anita Anand. We congratulated her on her election and appointment as Minister of Procurement and Government Services. She was very supportive of our advocacy on the social determinants of health including pharmacare. Even with the Liberal increase in Child Benefits, we stressed poverty is still a major problem. Anita acknowledged this and stated that the Federal Government continues to work on this issue.

Advancement of Women Halton



Ontario Council Speaker Series Topics:

- · Climate change
- · Early childhood learning
- Poverty
- News, democracy and trust in the digital age
- · Brain health and aging
- Housing for seniors
- Critical thinking and fake news



AWH was established in 2008 and is a non-partisan, issueoriented collaboration of over 20 women's community

groups in Halton. Its mission is to promote the advancement of women by developing and supporting social, political, cultural and economic strategies to achieve gender equality at the municipal, regional, provincial, national and international levels. CFUW-Oakville is a founding member of AWH.

Some 2019-20 AWH issues and actions:

- Environmental Issues guest speaker Lisa Kohler from HEN
- -Poverty Consultations
- -Rape Crisis Centres
- -Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet
- -Equity and Diversity Conference
- -Community and Safety Plan Halton
- -Private Day Cares
- -Members attended OoMama's Love and Hope Concert for Stephen Lewis Foundation (Oakville)

THANK YOU

Advancement Women Halton

Janis Fournier Gay Loveland Bonnie Jensen

- -The Age Friendly Work done through CDH under the umbrella of the Burlington Age Friendly Council; a link for more info
- -Letter writing to political leaders
- -Presentations on "Social Commons" ideology
- -International Women's Day Dinner in March

Oakville Club Members Serving CFUW Provincially and Nationally:

Ontario Council:

Sandy Thomson, President; Wanda Crichton, Secretary; Teri Shaw, Advocacy Coordinator

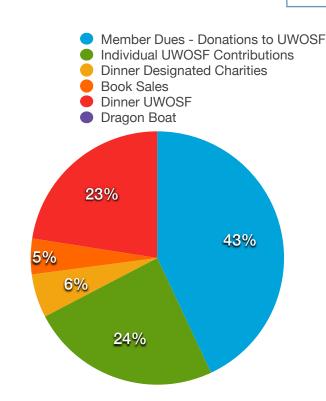
CFUW National:

Sandy Thomson, VP Ontario

Monies Raised \$15,983*

Fundraising is our way to support worthy causes in our community

Through fundraising, CFUW Oakville contributes to the University Women of Oakville Scholarship Fund. At our Holiday and Spring Dinners we chose a local charity for Member giving. This year our charity at our December dinner was Lighthouse Centre.





Fundraising Committee:

Linda Williams, Carolyn Collings-Merk, Jean Wettlaufer, Mary Saunders, Donna Kraayeveld



December 2019 holiday dinner

PROGRAMMING IDENTIFIES SPEAKERS AND TOPICS OF INTEREST

Our horizons are broadened and our knowledge deepened through our excellent speaker series. Each General Meeting and Club Dinner is enriched by the insights of our exceptional speakers.

SPEAKER	TOPIC
Sybil Rampen Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre	Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, why JCHAC is so important to Sybil. How to find the Artist within.
Vera Nenadovic BrainsView Inc	Your Body in the 21st Century: Complex not Complicated
Brenda Jasmin Happiness Psychologist	The Science of Happiness and Wellbeing
Tempus 12 Person Jazz Choir	Anniversary celebration with musical entertainment
Tara Wong Chief Executive Officer, Oakville Public Library	How libraries are becoming an Essential Community Hub
Liz Benneian Past President of Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, former Journalist and newspaper editor	Environmental Advocacy in Action
March meeting cancelled due to Covid-19	
April meeting cancelled due to Covid-19	

May dinner cancelled due to Covid-19

HOSPITALITY ENSURES THAT MEETINGS & CLUB EVENTS RUN SMOOTHLY

At every Club General Meeting and other key meetings such as New Members' Night and the Board Transition meeting, the Hospitality Committee ensures that the meetings are inviting for members and that our speakers' needs are well met.



Programming: Susan Stavin; Sonia Ellis

Hospitality: *Deb Hindmarsh*

Dinners: Louise Brownlee, Irina Constantinof

HOLIDAY & SPRING DINNERS BRING THE CLUB TOGETHER

In December, the Club enjoyed a sitdown dinner. The anniversary celebration brought Club members together for an evening of conversation and entertainment. Sadly, our May dinner was cancelled.

COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Communications binds our Club together and tells our story, using both traditional media and social media. Our 'In Touch' newsletter is published eight times a year and keeps our members informed on important issues and events. Posts and pictures helped to record our year on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Flickr with links on our website. Posts include upcoming events, photos of meetings and speakers, reports on issues of importance close to our hearts at CFUW with original charts and links, local issues, special days, photos and so much more. Remember to browse our Flickr gallery from time to time. This year a page was created to curate stories on the environment, climate change and sustainability, https://www.netvibes.com/vocal#-1-EAM.







Newsletter Editor: Pat Zelonka

Newsletter Advertising/Distribution: Leigh Mayers

Publicity/Social Media: Raine Greenwood

Webmaster: Pat Zelonka

BUILDING A STRONG MEMBER COMMUNITY

Our members share a strong sense of community. To maintain club cohesion, both the Membership and Directory Chairs work together to ensure that our membership records are complete and accurate. Every fall, our membership rolls are built, verified and then published in our members-only Directory. An accurate list of email addresses is critical to keeping members in touch.

2019 - 2020 MEMBER STATISTICS

Total Membership	234
Honorary Members	4
Life Members	3
Dual	2
New	16
Returning	218

Membership:

Lisaura Lobo

Directory:

Pat Hillmer



INTEREST GROUPS SUPPORT MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR PASSIONS

Our 37 Interest Groups provide a wide range of opportunities for members to both pursue interests in common and build bonds of friendship and support. Our interest groups meet frequently throughout the year and many have a long history. This year, we introduced three new interest groups.

BOOKBEAT, LITERARY LADIES, GREAT BOOKS, THE CRIME and CAFFEINE CLUB & BOOK EXCHANGES

Books we read this year:

Our four geographically organized book exchanges purchase and share books throughout the year.

We met with Phil Halton, author of This Shall be a House of Peace. We read The Gown; Empty Planet: the Shock of Population Decline; We All Fall Down; The Dry; The Janus Stone; The Water Rat of Wanchai; Where The Crawdads Sing; Three Secrets; The Language of Secrets; The Death of Mrs. Westaway; Warlight; The Moment of list: Empowering Women Changes the World; The Good Wife; Washington Black; This Shall Be a House of Peace; Becoming; The Spy and the Traitor; The Alice

Network; The Nightingale; Red Notice; The Promise of Canada; Great Conversations No.5—short works of Plato, Kipling, Sarte, Euripides. Russell, Keats and Tolstoy; Albatross; From Truth Be Told: My journey through life and the law; Unsheltered; The

Innocents;Lab Girl;Akin;Greenwood;A Better Man;The Dutch House;The Body;The Winemakers Wife;Murdered Midas Our nine Book Clubs enjoy sharing the love of books and reading. Each book provides an opportunity to explore new ideas and the human character.

COUPLES MOVIE NIGHT

We enjoy movies, a meal, and social time with our spouses and partners.

Movies we viewed were:

Ford versus Ferrari; Downton Abbey; Green Book; Bohemian Rhapsody; A Star is Born





Members of Crime and Caffeine Book Club

INTEREST GROUPS SUPPORT MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

LEARNING THROUGH MOOCs

We learn and discuss new ideas and concepts based on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) provided by universities and colleges around the globe.

Our Curriculum:

- Emergence of the Modern Middle East
- Intellectual Humility
- •Fairy Tales: Meanings, Messages, and Morals
- Shakespeare's Life and Work
- •The History of the Book in the Early Modern Period: 1450 - 1800
- Humphrey Davy
- Future Food, Sustainable Food Systems for the 21st Century
- Challenging Wealth and Income Inequality
- Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime

HAPPY HIKERS, GOLF, DRAGON BOATING

We had many varied hikes this year both on the Bruce Trail and closer to home, with 15-20 hikers for each hike. Due to the great interest in hiking, a second group started up this year. Sadly, our dragon boat team and golf club were both cancelled because of Covid-19. Let's hope for an outstanding season next year!



EVERY ACTION MATTERS

The purpose of this interest group is to respond to climate change at the level of personal action.

EAM begins with the premise that we all contribute to climate sustainability and can make positive behavioural changes. We can influence the private and public sectors. EAM submitted articles to our CFUW newsletter on the topics of: fashion, food waste, water, transportation, sustainable investing, circular economy, and carbon tax. We planned a public screening of the film "Closing the Loop" in partnership with Halton Environmental Network and the Oakville Public Library. Unfortunately, our good plans were overtaken by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Liz Benneian with Co-Presidents

MEDITATION/MINDFULNESS & PSYCHOLOGY/SPIRITUALITY

We explore the human soul in a friendly atmosphere. Research is shared and discussed. We opened and closed meetings with meditations chosen to complement issues presented in the text. We discuss chapters of *Open to Desire* by Mark Epstein and *How to Train a Wild Elephant* by Jan Chozen Bays to develop our individual practise of mindfulness.

We pondered the meaning of

life – with curiosity and a sense of humour. Why do humans behave as we do and how does spirituality impact lives? We discussed the books "The Five Languages of Love" and "Should We Eat Meat". We enjoyed presentations on Nellie McClung and other strong women, creative writing, caregiving, and cannabis & chronic pain.

INTEREST GROUPS SUPPORT MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

GOURMET, SOCIAL EVES and LADIES @ LUNCH

Some of the themes/ cuisines tasted and enjoyed this year:

We enjoy

exciting

table

exploring the

world of food

conversation

in members'

with good

Gourmet:

A Locovore Dinner; A Christmas Dinner; Recipes from The Barefoot Contessa; Hot Hot Caribbean!; and a Wine Tasting Evening

Social Eves:

Pot Luck Dinner; Winetasting; Fashion Show; Healthy Eating Cooking Experience; Theatre Night at Sheridan College - "Cabaret"; Laughter Yoga

Ladies @ Lunch:

Pipes and Taps; Trattoria Timone; Jonathans; Corks; The Oakville Club.



BEYOND BLOOMSBURY

This year's topics:

Three Bloomsbury Groups & Social Eves discuss topics of interest in areas of health, politics, education, art and literature. Aki Tanaka...
Climate; Wendy
Rowland...
documentary 13
and Muslim;
Joyce Wayne...
book Last Night
of the World;
Eileen
Henderson...

Incarcerated Women; Katherine Ashenburg... book <u>The Mourner's Dance</u>; visited the Oakville Fabric Arts display; toured the AGO; heard Greg Maxton_Defying Gay Gravity; OPL Digital Privacy and Geneology; World Religions; Indigenous Art; The Prison Book Club; Oakville Galleries; Cyber Crime; Music in Film

BRIDGE AND GAMES:

A group of 8 couples played 8 games. The 3 top-scoring couples each received a gift card at our wind-up party. New members welcome.



Thanks to Gloria Tomlinson and Brenda Walker, our Interest Group Co-Chairs, and to all our Interest Group Convenors.

Carolyn Collings-Merk; Pat Zelonka; Sue Monaghan; Charlotte Jeneway; Leanne Siracusa; Sue Stephens; Melany Smith; Deborah May; Dodie Layton; Alison Gemmell; Ethel Duthie; Jeanne Crockatt; Barbara Rennick; Carolyn Cole; Mar Koreman; Angela Lukowski; Margaret Pospisil; Pat Hillmer; Marle O'Sullivan; Hilary Vavasour; Julie Eldridge; Joan Owen; Susan Stavin; Janis Fournier; Brenda MacKay; Leigh Mayers; Christina Connell; Sandra Gorlick; Ginny Boelhower; Darla Campbell; Sue McArthur; Donna Kraayeveld; Shirley Brosky-Adams; Ielca Torok

And thanks to all the advertisers in our monthly newsletters.