

This Issue

March's Speaker: **Adam Shoalts**
Author and Adventurer

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Adam Shoalts, Ph.D., is a professional adventurer and Westaway Explorer-in-Residence at the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. His expeditions range from mapping rivers to archaeological projects, but Shoalts is best known for his long solo journeys, including crossing alone nearly 4,000 km of Canada's Arctic. Named one of the "greatest living explorers" by CBC and even declared "Canada's Indiana Jones" by the *Toronto Star*, Shoalts's latest adventure was a 3,400 km solo journey from Lake Erie to the Arctic, the subject of his new national bestselling book *Where the Falcon Flies*. His other books include *Alone Against the North*, *A History of Canada in 10 Maps*, *Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic*, and *The Whisper on the Night Wind*, all of them national bestsellers. He has a PhD from McMaster University in history, and in his free time, enjoys long walks in the woods.

We are looking forward to meeting with you on
Monday March 17, 2025
at Trafalgar Park Community Centre
and via Zoom.

We Love Canada!



Over 90% of Canadians now agree that Canada should remain a sovereign nation. Let's not talk about why it isn't 100%. Given the changing geopolitical climate, Canadians have come together in a surge of national pride. It seems that we needed, as a nation, to be reminded that we need to value our sovereignty. Canadian pride in every poll has risen dramatically. Whether it is by proudly displaying our flag or cheering on the Canadian hockey team in their win over the US, Canadians are proud of our country, its heritage and its place in the world. We are fortunate to live in a country where there is food, shelter, support and most importantly peace.

Canada ranks as one of the highest in the international ranks because of its political stability, its standard of living, quality of life, human rights and economic stability. We have a country which is one of the best countries in the world to live in. We have consistently been in the top 5 countries in the World using the indicators of measurement. Two examples of Canadian quality of life are that Canadians live on average 4 years longer than our American counterparts and have a higher median income than our American Counterparts.

Oakville is also a place that ranks high in desirability for many of the same reasons that Canada ranks high. As CFUW members and Canadian women, we have supported our families, our friends, young women and community members. We have contributed to the quality of life and the desirability of Oakville and Canada. Strong women continue to be the backbone of family and society.

While many uncertainties lie ahead, we must remember the pride of being Canadian, the opportunities that being Canadian has afforded us and continue to work and support our neighbourhood and our country.

Leadership Team

Ticket sales are open for the May 5th Dinner and Annual General Meeting. See the following page. The May Dinner is a wonderful time to start the spring season together with our CFUW Oakville friends!

Please RSVP to Katherine Beaudry and indicate your choice of dinner entrée between Grilled Salmon with maple beurre blanc or Sesame Crusted Chicken, as well as any food allergies or sensitivities. A vegetarian meal option is available upon request.

Hope to see you there!





CFUW Annual Meeting & Dinner

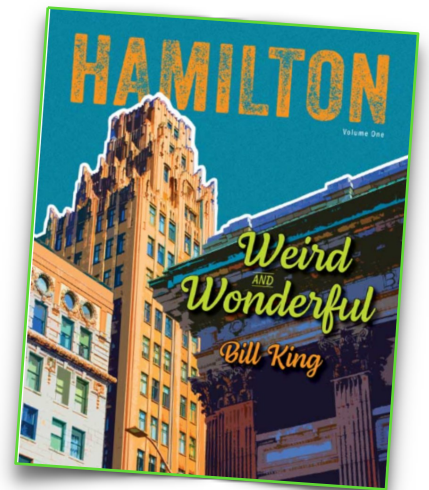
Monday May 5, 2025



It's time to celebrate Spring with CFUW friends!

Join the fun on May 5 with guest speaker Bill King, one of Hamilton's best known heritage advocates. Mr. King was raised in Hamilton, where he graduated from McMaster University. For several years he has conducted downtown Hamilton Walking Tours on summer Sundays.

Hamilton: Weird and Wonderful is Bill King's third book. It tells stories of characters from the lighter side of local history and features a rich variety of photos from archives and local photographer Mike Heinhold.



**Oakville Conference
& Banquet Centre
2515 Wycroft Road**

Cash bar: From 6 pm on
Dinner: 7 pm
Tickets: \$70

You can organize your own tables – **8 members per table.**

We are asking members to pay for tickets via e-transfer to fees@cfuwoakville.ca OR by cheque.

Be sure to include your name with the e-transfer.

Deadline for ticket purchase is **Friday, April 25.**

Bring cash for our traditional
50-50 Draw Scholarship Fundraiser!

For more information Contact **Katherine Beaudry** or
use the [Contact Us link.](#)



Role of Hospitality



The role of Hospitality in CFUW Oakville is to provide a warm and welcoming environment where all our members feel valued and included. At our General Meetings, we greet members and visitors and offer coffee and refreshments. We try to ensure that no one feels out of place or uncomfortable. Sometimes this can be accomplished through a small and sincere gesture such as a smile or short conversation.

Sometimes a little more is needed. We are a large club and at any point in time, some of us are struggling with serious health or personal difficulties. It is very easy to lose track of someone whom we do not see on a regular basis. If you know of a member who may need attention, please advise the Hospitality Committee. We will discretely contact any interest groups she is involved with and connect personally with her if appropriate. This information will be handled respectfully and kept confidential.

Please contact me if you would like to volunteer on the Hospitality Committee.

Marlene Bristol

Chair Hospitality



The most recent 2024 issue of the CFUW Ontario Council Newsletter can be accessed [here](#). Ontario Council organizes many events throughout the year. See a list [here](#).

In particular, all members are welcome to attend the Speakers Series.

OC Resolutions are ready for review. See [here](#).

Also see page 5 of this issue for CFUW Oakville's action on resolutions.



Click on the date to read a recent newsletter from **CFUW National**. These links are always for newsletters from the previous month. If you'd like to get this information in a more timely manner then you could **subscribe yourself** at <https://www.cfuw.org/>. See the Stay Informed with our Newsletter link about 2/3 of the way down the home page.

[February 7](#), [February 14](#), [February 21](#), [February 28](#)

2025 Resolutions

The Advocacy Committee is reaching out to all those interested in participating in the 2025 resolutions reviews.

The wording for the two Ontario Council resolutions has been out for a while and since amendments are due by April 1 each has been or is in the process of being reviewed by Committee members now. The recommendations will be presented to the Advocacy Committee first and then to the general membership.

The wording for the seven National resolutions is expected on March 6. Review for the National resolutions will begin as soon as we have the wording.

The intents are as follows:

1. Ending Menstrual Inequality
2. Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services
3. Safeguarding 2SLGBTQ+ Rights
4. Strengthening Support for Individuals Fleeing Domestic Violence
5. Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels
6. Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions
7. Housing – A Human Right, a Social Good and Meeting Core Housing Needs

Although members of the Advocacy Committee will be leading the reviews of the resolutions we would like as much input as possible from Oakville members. If you would be interested in participating in the review of a particular resolution please let me know and you will be contacted by an Advocacy member.

The results of the National Resolution reviews will first be presented at the Advocacy Meeting on March 26 when the Committee will make final decisions. Recommendations from the Advocacy Meeting will then be presented for voting at the April 14 General Meeting.

Diane McCullough
Advocacy Chair

ARE YOU AWARE?

Jordan Decision

- ◇ In 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that most trials should finish 18 months (for provincial court trials) and 30 months (for Supreme Court trials) after a person is charged. This period is calculated from the time of charging until the actual anticipated end of the trial, minus defense delays.
- ◇ 86 Ontario sexual assault cases have been thrown out since the summer of 2016 due to court delays.
- ◇ In October 2017, Simon Lapierre's piece in Policy Options stated that the Supreme Court's Jordan ruling could have a negative impact on how the justice system responds to violence against women.
- ◇ In September 2024, MPP Catherine Fife stated that Ontario's justice system is failing hundreds of survivors of sexual violence.
- ◇ In August 2023 Melanie Hatton's case "was thrown out – not for lack of evidence, but because the Crown took too long to bring it to trial under a set of strict timelines".
- ◇ Emily Ager's sexual assault case was tossed out in November 2023, after she had already testified in court, because the time had lapsed.
- ◇ In the January 2025 Toronto Life there was an article by Cait Alexander and how the Jordan decision had her complaint dismissed and how it has impacted her life. She is now living in the United States as she feels Toronto is no longer safe for her. She is requesting that the Ontario Government pass Bill 173 which would declare intimate partner violence an epidemic in Ontario, acknowledging the suffering of survivors and allowing the government to act urgently in addressing this issue.
- ◇ Bill 173, Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024 was introduced in March of 2024. According to recent Ontario Council information "Bill 173 has been stuck at committee review level for 10 months and a previously planned study and consultation has been curtailed."
- ◇ According to a headline in the January 16, 2025 Globe and Mail "The 2016 ruling meant to address unreasonable delays has derailed more than 400 criminal cases across the country". This has resulted in the Supreme Court of Canada "taking another look at its landmark 2016 Jordan ruling on unreasonable trial delays. According to Alison Craig (lawyer) "a lot of things have changed in the justice systemJordan definitely needs maybe not an overhaul but some adjustments".

Diane McCullough
Advocacy Chair

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University Women's Club of Oakville Scholarship Fund

The Jean Malcolm Smith Award honours Jean Malcolm Smith, a past President of CFUW Oakville, who was well-known for her contribution to the community. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated leadership skills and have outstanding school and/or community service.



Annie Anushka Thakur

High School:

Abbey Park High School

Extra Curricular Activities:

APHS Leader at Link Crew; APHS Athletic Council Member; co-founder & co-president of APHS; Vocalist at Candace Santos Voice Studios; White Oaks DECA Marketing Executive; APHS Environmental Council Member; WOSS Choir Member; Piano at Conservatory of Music; Bharatanatyam dancer at professional level

Volunteering:

Lead Youth Facilitator at the New Mentality (Halton); Youth Volunteer at Danielle's Place; Youth Volunteer at Bennett Centre Long Term Care Facility; Assistant teacher for Indian classical dance at Bharatham Academy

Post Secondary:

Western University, Bachelor of Arts – Social Sciences

Annie Thakur is an exceptional student, leader, and advocate who has consistently demonstrated academic excellence, outstanding character, and a deep commitment to promoting mental health awareness and inclusivity.

Annie has volunteered at various youth mental health programs where she took on diverse roles that showcased her versatility and leadership abilities. As a youth leader at the "Be You" camp, Annie facilitated discussions on body image, promoting self-acceptance and wellness. She also served as a lead youth facilitator with The New Mentality Halton, co-creating projects on community youth mental health awareness.

In addition to her extensive volunteering Annie was an invited speaker at the National Initiative for Eating Disorders Conference, where she had an opportunity to share her perspectives and experiences with a national audience. She also co-founded and led the American Sign Language (ASL) Association at her school, creating an environment for students to learn ASL and raise awareness

As a member of the Abbey Park Athletic Council, Annie helped plan and lead school spirit events, promoting community and inclusion within the school. Her involvement in these endeavours highlighted her focus on ensuring a welcoming and smooth transition for incoming students.

Annie is a conscientious, empathetic individual, characterized by exceptional enthusiasm and commitment. Her passion and dedication towards encouraging positive change make her an remarkable individual who is actively working towards creating a better world.

CFUW of Oakville is extremely proud to present Annie Thakur with the Jean Malcolm Smith Award.

Interest Group Activities for March 2025

New and returning members who would like to join one of these groups are encouraged to let the Interest Group Co-chairs 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	I	Sheila Aldoroty	1st Wednesday @ 10:00 am <i>In True Face</i> , Mendez OPEN
	II	Martina Eisleb Marla Newton	4th Wednesday @ 9:30 am OPEN
BookBeat PM	I	Charlotte Jeneway	Last Thursday @ 7:30 pm <i>Demon Copperhead</i> , Kingsolver OPEN
	II	Mary Wood	1st Wednesday @ 7:00 pm OPEN
	III	Helen Litton	First Tuesday @ 7:30 pm <i>The Personal Librarian</i> , Benedict
Crime & Caffeine	I	Leigh Mayers	Last Monday @ 1:30 pm <i>What We Buried</i> , Crombie
	II	Carolyn Collings Merk	4th Monday @ 1:30 pm <i>A Share in Death</i> , Rotenberg
	III	Susan Walkinshaw	2nd Monday @ 1:30 pm <i>Magpie Murders</i> , Horowitz
West End Book Exchange		Sue Stephens	Books are chosen in September for the year, for example: <i>Dark Wives</i> , Cleeves; <i>At a Loss</i>
We the North Book Exchange		Joan Dunn	Books are chosen in September for the year, for example: <i>Death at the Sign of the Rook</i> , Atkinson; <i>The Grey Wolf</i> , Penny
Literary Ladies		Pam Schwartz	1st Thursday @ 10:00 am <i>Health for All</i> , Philpot
Playing with Ideas		Dodie Layton	4th Thursday @ 9:30 am <i>Great Conversations — Vol 6</i> 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	Bonnie Jensen Laurie Nordin-MacLeod	Times vary through the month.
Word Power through Scrabble	Kathy Hall	2nd Tuesday @ 1:00 pm

Exploring Ideas Together: Issues to Advocacy presents an opportunity to educate ourselves on current issues and explore ideas together. Aging Collaboratively members want to discover the possibilities to create a better journey later in life; Beyond Bloomsbury 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	TBD OPEN
Beyond Bloomsbury	I	Mary Smith Sonia Ellis	4th Tuesday @ 7:00 pm
	II	Carolyn Collings Merk Becky Pogany	1st Thursday @ 7:30 pm

Meditation and Mindfulness Evening Meditation enjoys the relaxation of a guided meditation followed by a group discussion. Mindfulness and Meditation explores through readings, discussions and practice and Psychology / Spirituality 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	I	Jeanne Crockatt	3rd Tuesday @ 10:00 am <i>Beyond Distraction</i> , S. Catherine OPEN
	II	Chris Connell	1st Thursday @ 1:30 pm OPEN
Psychology and Spirituality	I	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	I	Alison Gemmell	2nd Thursday @ 6:30 pm
	II	Jan Dobson	2nd Thursday @ 6:45 pm
	III	Laurie Nordin-MacLeod	2nd Thursday @ 6:30 pm
	IV	TBD	Thursday evening OPEN
Ladies @ Lunch		Lise Moras	3rd Thursday @ 12 noon. OPEN
Social Eves		Marla Newton	4th Wednesday @ 7:00 pm 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

Exploring the Arts Together: Creativity through Painting and Drawing conducts online painting classes with guidance from an artist using acrylics on canvas to create personal masterpieces for pleasure, skill building and camaraderie.

Name	Convenor	Date and Time
Creativity through Painting and Drawing	Leanne Siracusa	Monday, 10:00 am, Zoom 6 or 8 week courses, dates TBD OPEN

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

Name		Convenor	Date and Time
Dragon Boating		Donna Kraaijeveld Susan Stavin	OPEN Any CFUW members who are interested in Dragon Boating are asked to contact Susan Stavin or Donna Kraayeveld
Golf		Katherine Beaudry Angie Vassallo	OPEN
Happy Hikers	I	Lynda Sturgeoff Marcia Hays	Tuesday am weather permitting Sept. to June
	II	Sue McArthur Heather McKinlay	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



Is this why we have no Happy Hiker images from February?

CFUW Oakville Leadership Team Portfolio Contacts for 2024-2025

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

CFUW Oakville Executive & Committees for 2024-2025

Executive Committee	
Leadership Team	Deborah May, Kyoko Kobayashi, Katherine Beaudry
Secretary	Linda Williams
Treasurer	Jillian Birnie
Standing Committee Chairs	
Advocacy	Diane McCullough
Finance	Jillian Birnie
Interest Groups	Gloria Tomlinson, Brenda Walker
Membership	Susan Walkinshaw
Newsletter Editor	Pat Zelonka
Programme	Susan Bowen
Hospitality	Marlene Bristol
Committees by Appointment	
Archivist	Hilary Vavasour
Directory	Carolyne Darimont
Nominations	Leadership Team
Web Manager	Pat Zelonka, Raine Greenwood
Communications/Publicity	Raine Greenwood, Pat Zelonka
Technology	Kyoko Kobayashi
Dinners	Katherine Beaudry

CFUW Oakville Event Calendar



Event	Location	Date	Time
CFUW Board meeting	Pat's house	Mar 3, 2025	7:00 pm
International Women's Day See ad for Mar 5 The Dinner Party below		Mar 8, 2025	
CFUW Oakville general meeting Adam Shoalts, Adventurer and Author	TPCC, Zoom	Mar 17, 2025	7:00 pm
CFUW Board meeting	Zoom	Apr 7, 2025	7:00 pm
CFUW Oakville general meeting Colleen Pickett and Tom Lesnick, Downsizing and Moving	TPCC	Apr 14, 2025	7:00 pm
Dinner and AGM		May 5, 2025	



On March 8, people around the country will come together to celebrate **International Women's Day 2025**. It's an annual global day that recognizes and celebrates women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements.

You can join the celebration by attending The Dinner Party on March 5 at the Oakville Conference Centre, presented by the Women of Halton Action Movement (WHAM) with keynote speaker Nicole Rakowski who will share her Unyielding Journey of Overcoming Adversity.

Tickets are \$95 in support of:

- SAVIS OF HALTON (Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services)
- RIGHT TO LEARN AFGHANISTAN (Formerly Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan)

See more information at thedinnerpartyiwd.ca

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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