



Our Theme this year:

Strength in Every Story

June 2026

Leadership Circle Members:

President: Christine Pagan president@cfuwpq.ca

Vice President: Di Groffen vp@cfuwpq.ca

Treasurer: Christine Pagan treasurer@cfuwpq.ca

Webmaster: Erin Holmes website@cfuwpq.ca

Club Address: Box 113 Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S7 See: <https://cfuwpq.ca>

Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 4P at St Columba Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Members

Program: Anniversary Celebration and AGM

What To Look For:

President's Annual Report

Program

Club news: Membership news, Book sale workers, Membership Message

Annual Reports: Treasurer, Program, Scholarship & Bursary Trust (Interim), Book Sale Group, Archives, Talking Circle on Indigenous Issues, Fun Walk, Baskets, Ladies Who Lunch, The Yarners.

Bookish Things:

Writing Skills,

Book clubs,

Book review

President's Message



2025-26 President's Annual Report

Sadly, we said goodbye to two of our members this year: Linda Fullalove and Sam Mason, and to two ex-members: Lynn Brown and Carolyn Collyer, all of whom contributed greatly to the life of our club over many years, and all of whom are missed greatly.

This year's club theme '**Strength In Every Story**' has informed all of our activities, from our speaker programme to our local community outreach events, and everything in-between. Our highlights are as varied and exciting as our members - grateful thanks to all of you. Some highlights of our year are captured below.

- The Scholarship & Bursary Trust (SBT) awarded \$62,000.00 in scholarships, bursaries, and trade awards to 21 women from SD69 going on or into university, college, and apprenticeships.
- Our 40th annual book sale hit the ball out of the park, and was a resounding success. The team has streamlined the process to reduce physical labour for our women. The net revenues from the book sale provide >70% of our operating funds, and allow us to participate in a number of advocacy and strategic giving initiatives, in addition to providing a grant to the SBT.
- The monthly speaker series brought a lens to the unhoused in our community, and has brought a greater level of understanding to the issues of affordable housing, substance abuse and homelessness. This has informed our advocacy work, and our out-reach to the community: our seasonal gift baskets given as gifts to community volunteers, our Silent Auction at our festive luncheon, raising funds for our local women's shelter; and our participation in CNOY, raising close to \$7000.00 for our communities.
- Our community advocacy took us once more into local schools to work on raising awareness on STEM/STEAM with Grade 6-7 girls, and we partnered with the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region, into the Secondary School to talk to students about what CFUW does to protect and preserve the environment.
- The annual IWD public address was given by the renowned artist, geographer and activist, Dr Brioney Penn, who received a well-deserved standing ovation from an audience of over 200. She entertained and educated us with her stories about being 'a difficult woman', with slides derived from her beautiful artwork, and she inspired us with how each one of us can 'make a difference'.

- Our book sale revenues have allowed us to continue with our “Strategic Giving’ initiative, where members bring forward a local initiative that is aligned with our values (focussed on women and children’ health and education) and could do with a significant targeted boost: The Oceanside Hospice Society, Pathfinders, Oceanside HealthCare, Society Of Organized Services (SOS), and The Wonderful World of Books have all been recipients.
- During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based violence we honoured the MMIW with our 12th Annual Red Dress Campaign, where empty red dresses were hung in the Parksville and Qualicum City and Town Halls in a very moving display. We also participated in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region’s Red Dress events in May.
- Global Outreach is an important activity in our club, we provide financial support to an elementary school in Pakistan (library books), to a junior high school girl in Tanzania, and to a nursing student in Guatemala. Our club sponsors keep us in touch with our recipients, so that we can maintain a connection that is more than just financial.
- ... of course, our Interest Groups - book clubs, Talking Circle on Indigenous Issues, ‘the gentle walking group’, Ladies Who Lunch, Coffee Klatch informal meetups, and many *ad hoc* museum, theatre, and gallery visits.
- ...and last but not least, our wonderful club members, celebrating our 45th anniversary this June!

(Contributed by Christine P.)

Program

I’m looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM, which will follow on from the **45th Anniversary Celebration** party, on **Tuesday June 09, at St Columba Presbyterian Church**. The party begins at 4:00pm, and the AGM will commence at 6:16 pm.

Membership News

On April 29, a group of CFUW PQ. Women met with grade 6/7 girls from elementary schools all across SD69 to talk about careers and opportunities in STEM subjects.

Kudos to the librarians and SD69 staff who take the time to organize this ‘girls only’ fun day of science and engineering experiments, and create a safe space for them to think beyond the boundaries.

What a fun time we had - and hopefully we have helped keep some avenues open for these young women in their educational journeys.

Right to left: Susan R., Catherine W., Nicola K., (SD69 project lead), Christine P., Louise S.

(Contributed by Christine P.)



Book Sale Work/Fun



Anna and June, March 2026



Dana and Anna, March 2026

Pat and Vicky, Leslie, Di



(Contributed by Joan M.)



Coffee Klatsch Continues over the Summer

While some CFUW PQ meetings and activities lessen over the summer be assured that you **can pop by to catch** up with friends at our coffee klatsch drop-ins at **Serious Coffee Parksville** (1209-East Island Highway). They take place the **3rd Tuesday each month at 2 pm** - just show up - there is no need to tell anyone if you are coming or not. Summer dates are **June 16, July 21 and August 18**.

(Contributed by Brenda P.)

Annual Reports

2025-26 Treasurer's Annual Report

Thanks to higher than anticipated book sale revenues, and prudent fiscal management by all committees and members, our club's finances are stable and healthy.

Banking and budget reports are provided to the Leadership Circle monthly, and later shared with the members. These reports document current financial position, and outlook after accruals. All are loaded to the website and available for review by members at any time.

The club has 3 bank accounts with Coastal Community Credit Union: checking for day-to-day spending, a staging account for 'square' transactions, and a savings account.

There are 4 term-GICs. Two GICs (totalling \$5,025) is allocated to 'keeping the lights on' to provide a year of funds to maintain the integrity of the Scholarship and Bursary Trust in the event that the club has to be unwound; and the remaining two GICs (totalling \$3,048) are set aside as seed money for an as-un-yet decided community project to mark the club's 50th anniversary in 2031.

The following summary is an interim financial snapshot at April 30, 2026, for both bank and budget, and a forecast of club finances at YE 2025-26. These figures are up to date, but will change slightly as we approach the end of the club year. However, they are directionally correct and it is not anticipated that there will be significant or material changes. The accounts will be reviewed at YE 2025-26, and the signed-off approved statements will be shared with the club in September 2026.

1) Bank Balances at April 30, 2026

- a) Combined assets: \$14,965
- b) Accruals, reserve funds, and ear-marked allocations: \$11,281
- c) Working cash surplus projected to club YE: **\$3683**

2) 2025-26 Budget

- a) Actual/forecast receipts were \$7,215 higher than budget
- b) Actual/forecast disbursements were \$5,615. higher than budget
- c) Projected budget surplus **\$1,096** (was \$616)

3) Strategic Giving Fund

- a) \$3,000 was allocated for SGG distribution

- \$1,000 and \$1,000 has been awarded to Society of Organized Services and Wonderful World of Books
- b) \$1,000 remains for further giving and will be carried forward, earmarked for SG in the 2026-27 club year.

(Contributed by Christine P.)

Programme Committee Annual Report

Speakers:

September - Getting to know the CFUW Parksville Qualicum club

October – Coast Karma Academy

November – MOMS Stop the Harm

January – our members discussing books

February – VP Di Groffen, Housing and the Unhoused in our Community

April – Resolutions

May– Save Hamilton March – it has been saved!

Four meetings were held at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, one at Knox United Church, one at St. Columba Church and one by zoom.

As we move to the end of another CFUW year and to ease the process for the member(s) who will assume responsibility for the Programme Committee, I made the following recommendation: that we move our meetings to one location, St. Columba Presbyterian Church in French Creek.

Rationale:

- Qualicum Beach Civic Centre demands we have an insurance certificate in place 30 days after first booking. BC Council has not provided the insurance certificate until mid-September.
- CFUW BC Council will charge us for any insurance certificates for a second location (partial meetings at Civic Centre and Knox)
- The tech arrangements at Knox are not sufficient. The screen is not sufficient for our requirements.
- Comparable rent to other locations

For the upcoming year, September 2026 – June 2027, our meetings will be held at St. Columba Presbyterian Church.

(Contributed by Mary Ellen C.)

Scholarship and Bursary Trust Interim Report May 2026

This year 2025-2026 is my final year of a two-year term as chair of the trust. The trustees have had five meetings since August to prepare for this year's scholarship and award applications.

The trustees this year are, treasurer June Arnett, Sharon Sawkins, corresponding secretaries, Bonnie Stableford, Pat Morrison-Wheeler, School liaison Janice la clerk, publicity Susan Richardson and recording secretary, Christine Pagan.

We look forward to welcoming our 2 new trustees Dana Goebdloed, Cindy John and Dianne Anderson who is stepping into Pat Morrison Wheeler role.

As outlined in our poster, we will offer 4 secondary school scholarships to SD69 women graduates, 2 memorial, 2 postgraduate, the JC Reid scholarship and 3 mature, 1 ECE and 2 trade awards this year. As I write we have had a good number of applications, but the majority will appear between May 28th and the 31st of May as they traditionally do.

The trust would like to thank the CFUW members for the generous support they give with individual donations, or by supporting the book sale, without which the club donation would not happen. We and the future award recipients are very grateful.

Some years ago, the Trust was awarded money from 100 Women Who Care Oceanside, which enabled us to increase the amounts.

We have been applying again and despite often being compared to children and puppies, rest assured we will always be ready with a compelling speech to inspire those generous women toward us. We will certainly be looking at our scholarship and awards numbers and amounts if this happens.

I look forward to reporting to you in July with the names and academic plans of all our winning candidates.

I have enjoyed my second term as a SBT trustee and am comfortable it will be in very capable hands in the future.

(Contributed by Val G., SBT Chair)

Book Sale Group Annual Report

The 40th Annual CFUW PQ Book and Jigsaw Sale in September 2025 earned the Club \$23,410 in gross revenue and \$17,268 after expenses -- a new high for annual Club fundraising. Revenues from this initiative have been steadily increasing in recent years. The 2024 Sale brought in \$21,453 (net \$14,426), and the 2023 sale grossed \$18,265 (net \$12,312).

The growth in Book Sale revenues reflects a series of incremental improvements made to operations by the Book Sale Group. These occurred in tandem with the Club's investment in shelving, bins, banker boxes, a Square terminal, Club T-shirts and other aids to book and puzzle marketing. As well, the greater use of paid labour has permitted the shifting of ever larger volumes of product while relieving Club members from some heavy lifting. Expenses

related to operational improvements began stabilizing in 2025 and net revenue is now on the rise. Island Self Storage continues to provide the Club with a free storage unit – a benefit originally organized by a Club member in 2017 that, today, represents a savings of \$5,000 per year. The Arrowsmith Hall at the Coombs Fairgrounds, first used by CFUW PQ in 2022, is proving a reliable and appealing venue for the annual Book Sale. In addition, the good relationship with Fairgrounds administration is providing CFUW PQ with new fundraising opportunities. In 2025, Club members were invited to staff the gate for the Coombs Fair in return for a \$1000 honorarium. This fundraising activity will be repeated in 2026.

The Annual Book Sale is well regarded in the Oceanside community, ensuring a steady supply of donated material via the donation box as well as large donations directed to the Club by individuals, estates, retirement facilities and businesses. Over 450 banker boxes of books and a score of large boxes of puzzles were taken to sale in September 2025. Barring the unforeseen and given the pace of donations seen since Book Sale 2025, it is expected that the 41st Annual CFUW PQ Book and Jigsaw Sale in September 2026 will involve a similar amount of product and prove to be another successful fundraising effort for the Club.

The Book Sale operation depends upon the daily clearing of the donation box outside Save-On-Foods in Parksville, the weekly sorting and boxing of donations received, the regular processing of large donations, and the organizing and staging of the annual week-long sale. About half of the Club's members are active participants in this major fundraising initiative, often assisted, especially at sale time, by family and friends. At Book Sale 2025, a recent CFUW PQ Scholarship recipient and her family helped out. Supported by the regular inflow of new CFUW PQ members, the Book Sale should continue to shine for many years and provide the Club with the wherewithal to undertake a wide variety of efforts in support of women, their education and their empowerment.

(Contributed by Joan M., for the Book Sale Group Fundraising Committee)

Club Archives Annual Report / Reminder May 2026

As the current Club Archivist, as this Club year winds down, I would like to say a huge thank you to Noreen B. for the tour of our archives last fall and for walking me through the various steps to preserve our information. Your help, Noreen, was and is indispensable.

A gentle reminder to members of the Leadership team, committee chairs, interest groups, and anyone who has generated documentation as part of Club Activities that after the Club AGM/Anniversary Tea in June, I shall be collecting documents dated **June 2024 or older**. Please include minutes, correspondence, and financial reports, as well as bookmarks, posters, or any materials that illustrate and document Club activities.

Please contact me directly if you need to confirm the value of keeping certain items or if you need to arrange drop off or pick up of material.

Thanks so much. (Contributed by Cindy J.)

Annual Report for Talking Circle on Indigenous Issues Interest Group

Talking Circle participants learn about and discuss aspects of culture, history and matters concerning the Indigenous in Canada. “By understanding and respecting our cultural differences, we can move toward full reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.” [quotation from Bob Joseph and Cynthia F. Joseph in their book, “Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to make Reconciliation a Reality” by Bob Joseph with Cynthia F. Joseph (2019) (paperback ISBN 978-1-989025-64-2)].

The Talking Circle had lots of discussions on the Cowichan Tribes judgment, Aboriginal Title, land acknowledgements, Undripa and Dripa. No doubt these topics will continue to dominate our discussions at future Talking Circle meetings.

The Talking Circle group arranged for the Club to lend its collection of red dresses to the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach for display at the Parksville City Hall and Qualicum Beach Town Hall, marking the U.N. 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (the 16 days starts each year on November 25). The Club advertised in the PQB News about the 16 days and the displays.

To mark the National Red Dress Day (May 5), 15 of the red dresses were lent to the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region education centre in Qualicum Beach for display outside and inside the centre.



It should be noted members volunteered to clean and press the dresses for the displays – and then clean the dresses after the displays. Donations of red dresses are always welcome, especially those that can be machined washed, and requiring no ironing! Please contact Lisa M. if you wish to participate in the Talking Circle meetings.

(Contributed by Lisa M.)

Annual Report from the Fun Walk Interest Group

The Fun Walk group is for those wanting to get some fresh air while strolling with terrific company. We have walked along some of the beautiful trails in Oceanside. All are welcome, as well as ideas for walks. Please contact Lisa M. if you want to be on the email list for the Fun Walk group.



(Contributed by Lisa M.)

CFUW PQ Annual Report of Basket Giving

We have been giving baskets to our community for 14 years. This year 25 baskets have been prepared and sent out. The greatest number, 14, have gone to a man and a woman at Forward House for special occasions such as July 1 and Christmas. We received a request from SOS for 5 baskets which we were pleased to fill. Two were for a man and a woman volunteer at Christmas and 3 for the June Golf Fundraiser Silent Auction. There were 2 baskets prepared for the New Members' Tea, also 1 given out at the September Club Meeting and 2 given out at the May Club Meeting. One was prepared for the Welcome Wagon volunteers as a thank you.

I am pleased to announce that the Leadership Circle has approved the continuation of Basket Giving for 2026-2027 and it will continue to be reported monthly in the Leadership Circle Minutes.

(Contributed by Lorna M.)

Ladies Who Lunch CFUW PQ Annual Report

Ladies Who Lunch will have met 7 times this Club Year finishing on Saturday, May 31 at The Rusted Rake in Nanoose Bay. The first lunch was Monday, Sept. 29 in Qualicum Beach and then moved to Tuesday in Parksville according to the plan to move across the days of the week and alternate locations. As of early May, the largest number attending was 11 and the smallest was 6. I am pleased to announce that we shall continue this activity in 2026-2027 with the first sign-up at the September Club meeting.

(Contributed by Lorna M. May 8, 2026)

The Yarners CFUW PQ Annual Report

At the request of a number of CFUW PQ Club members The Yarners interest group was formed in February. At the first meeting it was decided that we'd meet on the first Monday of the month, at 2 pm at L. Miller's home. Since we meet in a member's home we decided that the group would split in half when membership reached 10. We will have met 5 times this year and look forward to continuing next year with the same pattern.

(Contributed by Lorna M. May 8, 2026)

Bookish Stuff

How to Write Good

My several years in the word game have learnt me several rules:

Avoid alliteration. Always.

Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.

Avoid clichés like the plague. They're old hat.

Employ the vernacular.

Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.

Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.

It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.

Contractions aren't necessary.

Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.

One should never generalize.

Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."

Comparisons are as bad as clichés.

Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.

Profanity sucks.

Be more or less specific.

Understatement is always best.

Exaggeration is a million times worse than understatement.

One word sentences? Eliminate.

Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.

The passive voice is to be avoided.

QFP (Quality Foods Parksville) Booklovers

We meet upstairs the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Sept. 11 is our first gathering and the book "Always Pack A Candle" is our selection. The remainder of the year is as follows:

Oct. 9 [The Forgotten Home Child, by Graham](#)

Nov. 13 [Revenge of the Tipping Point , by Gladwell](#)

Dec. 11 [Precious Cargo, by Davidson](#)

Jan.8 [The Briar Club, by Quinn](#)

Feb.12 [The Berry Pickers, Peters](#)

Mar. 12 [Walking in Two Worlds, by Kinew](#)

Apr. 9 [Brother, by Chariandy](#)

May 14 [All the Quiet Places, by Isaac](#)

(Contributed by Dianne A.)

Shrinking Violets Book Club Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Theme: Australia

- Bailey, Sarah. The Housemate. 2023
- Bryson, Bill. In a Sunburned Country. 2000
- Carey, Peter. True History of the Kelly Gang. 2000
- Gee, Poppy. Bay of Fires. 2013
- Gee, Poppy. Vanishing Falls. 2020

- Grenville, Kate. *The Lieutenant*. 2008
- Grenville, Kate. *The Secret River*. 2005
- Mahood, Kim. *Wandering with Intent: Essays from Remote Australia*. 2022
- Moriarity Liane. *Apples Never Fall*. 2021.
- Winton, Tim. *Cloudstreet*. 1991.

(Contributed by Noreen B.)

Book Review of the Month

Liberty Street (2026) by Heather Marshall

I picked up this book because I had read her *Looking for Jane*, which was an illuminating look at abortion access in 1960s Canada. From the flyleaf, I knew that an ambitious young reporter arranges to get into a particularly bad women's prison, but that getting in is much easier than getting out. The comments describe the book as about "resilience, mental health, and the power of female connection." However, I was somewhat disappointed on the whole.

There were two areas that made me doubt the story. One was credibility. The author depicted the social expectations of women at that time. I remember that time and my memories do not accord with the social world she depicts. Women supposedly quit work when they married and children were expected to follow shortly after marriage. That was not necessarily the norm as I remember it at that time, but let us give the author credit and assume she did her research and it was that way, there, then. The other area was a development that took place after the reporter, Emily, had been undercover for nearly six months at the prison, had made many friends there among the other prisoners, and had copious notes on the ill-treatment of the prisoners. She was angry and decided to confront one of the worst offenders. She was warned that the decision was a bad one. She went ahead anyway, despite the reliability of the person who warned her. The consequences of her hastiness were very bad, as predicted. For a supposedly smart young woman, it was a dumb move.

The other decision the author had made was to alternate the story of the brave young reporter of 1961 with a female police detective in 1986. Rachel is investigating the unmarked burial of a

woman in a graveyard, in an attempt to identify her. The author gave her a troubled background that involves women's mental health and violence, but the story left many questions unresolved. The slow movement of the police investigation (and is it not unlikely that the department could spare her and a trainee's time to that extent on that matter), is a welcome respite from the horrors of that prison at that time. Rachel faces issues in her life and career path that show the persistence of so-called women's issues in the disrespect that the detective faces and the failure to properly treat her mother's mental health.

The prison conditions were bad but not as bad as I feared. At a certain point, I hesitated to continue, wondering how bad it would be. It does not get *that* bad. Cruel, unthinking, hidebound, careless, deprived, yes. The prison doctor is truly evil, experimenting on her helpless subjects by giving them venereal disease and testing proposed cures for a fee. The warden and matrons are simply mean and uncaring. The conditions are appalling. Those factors are balanced by the support Emily receives from many others. Her eyes are opened. A madam is not necessarily despicable. Prostitution can be a realistic choice, under some circumstances. Poverty and deprivation drive much labelled as crime.

A surprising truth was the law in effect at the time that enabled a father or husband to have the power to lock up a woman for 'incurability'. That was a surprise. Emily's father simply has to state that she is unruly and disobedient. It was surprising that the editor of the sponsoring magazine would really have allowed a junior staff member like Emily to embark on such a dangerous escapade, despite the undoubted value of her expose. However, some intrepid women did some truly daring things to 'get the story'. The world improved for women with their courage.