

# THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

ST. THOMAS CHAPTER

1976 - 2001

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Nancy Lawrence

2000 - 2001

The purposes envisaged by our founders are equally valid today. We continue to facilitate access of women to higher education through scholarships and to promote friendship and understanding among university women throughout the world.

It is therefore an honour for me as the current president to thank ALL of our past and current members for the tremendous contributions they have made over the last half-century.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the committee of Marilyn Andrews, Helen Blake, Isabel Campbell, Cathy Hedley, and Barb Paddon who have provided us with the material for creating this booklet and for all their hard work in making this 50th Anniversary Celebration of St. Thomas Federation of University Women a memorable occasion.

1976 -1977

**PRESIDENT ANN THOMAS**

The Community Involvement group unveiled the Jumbo plaque June 17<sup>th</sup> in connection with the Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Other activities included supporting the Debt Counseling Service with a \$50 donation, and organizing the annual fund raising dessert bridge (proceeds \$196). Sales of magazines subscription netted proceeds of \$160.

A major undertaking was "Concern '77 - Changing Roles in a Changing World", held Saturday, April 23 from 1:00 - 4:30 at Parkside Collegiate Institute. This Conference was jointly sponsored by our Club and the Elgin County Women Teachers' Association. The keynote speaker was Marjorie Ewing, Guidance Councillor, Thornlea Collegiate. The seminars, co-ordinated by our club members, were (1) Career Awareness for Young Women, (2) Survival At Home, (3) Entering the Work World, (4) Toward Self-Enrichment, and (5) Up The Career Ladder. Funds to cover the cost of the conference, (approximately \$125), were raised from the Bridge, and a \$50 donation from E.C.W.T.A. Attendance was disappointing—approximately 110, due to "minimal support from the club and the community".

In eight General Meetings and six Executive Meetings, many local and national issues were studied and evaluated such as pornography in our local stores, the role of women in the home, the formation of value judgments, the role of CFUW, and the question of the future unity of Canada. Letters were sent and replies received from Justice Minister Ron Basford and M. P. John Wise concerning Civil Rights, and from Mayor Barwick regarding the display of pornographic literature.

Membership for the year was 72 paid members.

1977 -1978

**PRESIDENT JILL GREEN**

The Library and Creative Arts Committee, inactive the previous year, was very active this year in bringing the touring production of "Wacousta" by James Reaney to St. Thomas. This production was held April 1 at Arthur Voaden Auditorium. Attendance at the performance was disappointingly low and resulted in a deficit of \$175 despite a grant from the Ontario Arts Council and use of proceeds from the fund-raising bridge (\$22) to supplement proceeds from ticket sales. On the day of the performance, the touring company provided 2 free workshops attended by 51 people, mostly high school students.

An "Anti-Junk Food" Committee was established, headed by Ann Thomas, which pursued their concerns with the Elgin County Board of Education.

Delegates from our Club attended the CFUW Council in Thunder Bay (Ann Thomas) and the World Conference in Stirling, Scotland (Marion Penhale) and gave their reports as speakers at the October meeting.

The Community Involvement Group was inactive this year. Donations were made to the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (\$25), Indian Cultural Group (\$50), YWCA After Four Program (\$50). Proceeds from sales of magazine subscriptions were \$160.

Letters were written to Provincial and Federal authorities in support of the preservation of prime agricultural land and to both Elgin County School Boards urging sound nutritional principles. Membership remained stable at 74 which included two new members.

1978 - 1979

**PRESIDENT RUTH MARCOU**

No significant projects were undertaken this year with both the Community Involvement and the Library and Creative Arts Interest Groups inactive. A major donation of \$400 was made to the CFUW Charitable Trust. There was no Bridge Fund-Raiser. Sale of magazine subscriptions netted \$175.

A major change was to have more frequent Executive Meetings so the General Meetings could be enjoyed with a minimum of business. Also, an effort was made to have members get to know each other better, both "astrologically", through a game played at the opening pot luck dinner and at a "fun night".

For the first time, the Christmas Wine and Cheese Party was cancelled due to no one volunteering their home. This was replaced by a "Fun Night" (wine and cheese and card playing) held in February at the Y.W.C.A. Attended by 24 members.

There was a significant drop in membership this year, down to 59 from 74 the previous year, with 5 new members.

There was a major crisis at the closing Annual Meeting when it was revealed that no one had agreed to the position of President or Vice-President for the following year despite all members being contacted. Mary Jane Kraehling very kindly ensured the survival of our club by agreeing to become President and Marilyn Andrews volunteered to be Vice-President.

1979 - 1980

**MARY JANE KRAEHLING**

This year, there was a major change in the focus of the Club, based on a consensus reached at the previous Annual General Meeting. At that time, members agreed that they would no longer be involved as a group in community projects. The reasons given for this were that, as individuals, many were already actively involved in community affairs and that a large percentage were also busy with full-time jobs. The Club was now seen as "an association to provide programs to promote discussion, information, and fellowship."

Two members attended a meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for Refugee Assistance and the Club made a \$100 donation to the Y.W.C.A. sponsored Distress Centre for Women and a \$25 donation to the Y.W.C.A. Carnival. There was no Bridge Fund-Raiser.

This was the last year for the sale of magazine subscriptions, with proceeds totalling a meagre \$21.90 this year. This had been the major source of funding for scholarships over the years, with proceeds totalling over \$900 at one time. For a number of years, Laila Johnson had generously assumed ongoing responsibility for sales but had been encountering increasing frustration in recent years. The decline in sales was attributed to major difficulties with publishing companies, Canada Post, and inflation and it was decided that continuing with sales was no longer worth the effort.

The Library and Creative Arts Committee organized the January meeting which involved four different interest groups: Rug Hooking, Yoga, Bread Making, and Improving Your Parenting Skills. Group leaders were club members.

Other General Meetings included two Panel Discussions, one on "Job Sharing" and another on "Book Censorship in the Schools" with panellists from the community as well as from our membership. Other topics included member Jean Foster's "Impressions of China", and member Barb Fisher's "Renaissance Reflections".

The Annual Christmas Wine and Cheese was reinstated after last year's cancellation and well attended

(46 people). The February "Fun Night" was again held at the Y.W.C.A. with a craft and fashion display. Hot cider and cheese were served.

Membership increased this year to 61 members, although seven members left the Club. However, four members who had left in previous years returned and there were five new members.

#### 1980 -1981

#### PRESIDENT MARILYNN ANDREWS

This year, the focus reverted back to responding to community needs. The fund-raising bridge, held over the years in members' homes, but cancelled the previous few years, became a major fund raiser chaired by Mary Jane Kraehling and held at Memorial Arena, with proceeds of \$500 to support Women's Place, the Y sponsored home for battered women. A donation of \$25 was also made to the Children's Library to refurbish the puppet theatre and \$100 was donated to the Elgin Theatre Guild toward their Centennial Project.

The Library and Creative Arts Committee again organized the January General Meeting with three workshops offered: Off-Loom Weaving, Investment for Women, and Morality in Our Schools. As with the previous year, a number of members were leaders for these workshops as well as speakers at the General Meetings. Meeting topics included Handwriting Analysis, Advertising, History of Flower Arranging, and Movie Making Techniques.

Membership this year dropped to 51 from 61 the previous year, with 17 lapsed memberships.

#### 1981-1982

#### PRESIDENT CATHY HEDLEY

In honour of the first 25 years of the club's existence, copies of "The History of the University Women's Club of St. Thomas, 1951-1976" were donated to the St. Thomas Public Library and Elgin County Library.

Donations to the community this year included \$482 to Women's Place, \$25 to the St. Thomas Art Gallery and \$200 to the Elgin Theatre Guild to help offset their deficit.

President Cathy Hedley attended the CFUW Conference in Waterloo in May.

Interest groups were reintroduced, with a Luncheon and Book group starting this year and Recreation and Bridge being considered for next year.

Besides the annual opening Pot Luck Supper, the Christmas Wine and Cheese and the January's Court Whist party, our meetings included 'Battered Women' with Carole Por as guest speaker, and 'Canadian Art' held at the Art Gallery, with Maggie Mitchell, Gallery Director. She recalled the instrumental roll of the University Women's Club in the formation of the Art Gallery.

Eula Mae Myers, our Provincial Director, presented 'CFUW Resolutions' to our membership. In March, a thought provoking evening was provided by Lil Stegne, Director of Self-Development, St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, who led us in a discussion after presenting a film "Pack Your own Shute." The meeting organized by the Community Involvement Committee was on 'Rape' with Police Officers Baldwin and Rabbits as our guest speakers.

Those attending the Annual Dinner Meeting, held at the St. Thomas Golf & Country Club, were entertained by two Barbershop Quartets. Membership was 43 for the year.

1982-1983

**PRESIDENT ANN LAPCHINSKI**

Our annual Dessert Bridge & Euchre raised \$451 for Women's Place. Expenses for the evening were paid by using the interest from the Community Involvement Debenture. The prizes were purchased with money earned by raffling off baked goods at our General meetings.

Other donations to the community included \$25 to the Art Gallery and \$25 to the Canadian Cancer Society in memory of our long time accountant, 'Nipper' Scott, who passed away this year. Charter member Catherine Mathers also passed away and a book was purchased in her memory for the Public Library.

A New Members' Tea was held in February at the home of Mary Jane Kraehling.

Our meetings included 'Images of Canada' held at the Art Gallery with Director Maggie Mitchell. In January, members were given a choice of learning more about 'Gardening' and 'Bread Making'. In March, club members learned all about the importance of 'Colours' in selecting a wardrobe, and in April we were given much helpful advice by Fiona Goodchild from University of Western Ontario, who spoke on 'Time Management'. Our Community Involvement Committee organized the meeting on 'St. Thomas Telecare' with Edna Wightman.

Membership this year was 45, of whom six were new members.

1983-1984

**PRESIDENT BARB GREEN**

Our financial commitment to Women's Place continued this year with a donation of \$342 being made, the results of a successful Dessert Bridge and Euchre. \$25 was donated to the YWCA.

President Barb Green attended the CFUW Conference in June in Toronto.

Topics of our meetings included 'The New Grand Theatre' in London with Bruce Hutchison and actor, Guy Bannerman, who spoke on their newly formed theatre. Club members were given an informative talk on 'The Basics of Computers' with Ann Kenny and Ruth Jenkins. Margie Snowsell spoke on 'Mastectomy' and provided a much appreciated personal perspective on breast cancer. Our March guest speakers were Melanie Stevens of Kettle Creek Canvas Co. and Brenda Smith of Pine Croft Studio, speaking on 'Owning Your Own Business'. The Community Involvement Committee organized a meeting on 'Pornography' with Roberta Johnson of the Ontario Censor Board. Membership was 43, with three new members joining the club.

1984-1985

**PRESIDENT SUSAN ANDREWS**

A donation of \$480 was made to Women's Place this year. Instead of raffling off baked goods at our General meetings, members each brought small items to September's Pot Luck Dinner and conducted a Dutch Auction to raise money to cover the expenses of the Dessert Bridge &

Euchre. Because it was both financially successful and entertaining, it was recommended that we do this again next year.

A charter member, Marion McIntyre, passed away and a book was donated in her memory to the St. Thomas Public Library.

The club was pleased to hear that club member, Eileen Penhale, was chosen 'Woman of the Year' at the YWCA.

As expenses were relatively high to rent facilities for our meetings, it was decided that our January meetings, which are traditionally Court Whist, would be held at members' homes.

As usual, our monthly meetings provided club members with varied, interesting, and informative topics for the year. We heard about 'Financial Planning' with Helen Haight, and 'Furniture: Its Construction, Pricing and Trends', with Vern Huston. This meeting was held at Huston's Furniture and proved to be one of the most popular meetings for club members. A tour and talk at the Elgin Pioneer Museum was held in February, and was also a well attended evening.

The Community Involvement Committee organized two meetings, one on 'Aging', with Fred Boyes of Elgin Manor and Betty Johnson from the Heath Unit, and one on 'Nutrition and Aging', with Carolyn Kuntz, Public Health Nutritionist for the Health Unit.

The Annual Meeting had as a guest speaker, Dr. Morrison of the University of Waterloo, father-in-law of club member, Chris Morrison, who spoke on his recent trip to India. Club membership was 35.

#### 1985-1986

#### President: Helen Blake

A very successful Dessert Bridge & Euchre was held with \$700 being donated to Women's Place. A Dutch Auction, held at the Pot-Luck in September, raised \$80.50 to be used to offset expenses of the Dessert Bridge & Euchre and was to become an annual event.

To increase the Scholarship fund, Helen Blake organized a community garage sale at Memorial Arena, with the public purchasing tables for \$15 at which to sell their treasures. A profit of approximately \$500 was realized from this.

A long-time member, Alice McDonald, was tragically killed this year and donations were made by club members in her memory.

The Luncheon Interest Group met throughout the year, with 8-12 members participating on a regular basis.

Our St. Thomas club assisted the London club in hosting the Ontario West Conference, and four of our members attended this event.

Topics of this year's meetings included a tour and talk on Canadale Nurseries, with Tom Intven, and 'Speaking our Peace: A Woman's Initiative', with Julie Berry of Project Ploughshares. Club member, Ann Lapchinski and friend, Judi Wright, gave us a highly entertaining film and talk on 'Outward Bound', in which they personally participated.

New Art Gallery Director, Ian Ross, introduced us to 'European Prints'. The Community Involvement Committee's meeting this year was 'In-vitro Fertilization' with Dr. Stanley Brown, University Hospital, London.

The Annual Meeting, held at the St. Thomas Golf & Country Club, included entertainment by the Elgin Court Choir, led by club member Mary Jane Kraehling. Membership was 31.

1986 -1987

**PRESIDENT HELEN WOODS**

The highlight of the year was the beginning of the Children's Fun Series, which developed into a major community project. Robert Munsch, Eric Nagler and the ballet production "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" were popular entertainers. The series ended with a profit of \$8000 due to the dedication of the co-ordinator, Helen Blake, ticket co-ordinator, Helen Wood, and club members.

Seven \$50 scholarships were awarded and it was hoped the amount would increase in the future due to the revenues from the Children's Fun Series.

The club donated \$750 to Women's Place from the annual Dessert Bridge and Euchre party success.

The annual potluck dinner held at Chris Morrison's got the year off to a good start.

During the year, several informative meetings took place. Margaret MacGee, from the Canadian Federation of Women, spoke on Women's Issues and a tour of Victoria Hospital gave the members the opportunity to learn of the new services rendered at the facility. Ron Elliot, of Super M Drugs, spoke in February on over-the-counter drugs and prescription drugs followed by Sue Klabunde giving a presentation on her "Pots" at the temporary quarters of the Art Gallery in March.

"Breaking the Cycle of Family Abuse" was the topic in April led by Christena Dawson.

Jackson's Wharf was the setting for the annual meeting at which Janis Rapoport, resident poet and writer at the St. Thomas Library, spoke. The membership convener reported that six new members had joined the club, bringing the total to 33.

Several social events took place. One was the annual Wine and Cheese at the home of Mary Ellen & Brian Bolt's followed by Court Whist in January at the home of Cathy Hedley.

1987 - 1988

**PRESIDENT BARB PADDON**

Due to the success of the Children's Fun Series, under the direction of Helen Blake and Helen Woods, the scholarship recipients each received \$150.

The second year of the Children's Fun Series was another sell-out year. Bob Schneider, a recording artist, "Oliver Button is a Sissy" put on by the National Tap Dance Company and Theatre Beyond Words performing "The Future Adventures of the Potato People" were the entertainers. Videos of Bob Schneider, Robert Munsch and Kim and Jerry were donated to the St. Thomas Library.

A donation of \$575 was presented to Women's Place following the Dessert Bridge and Euchre.

Barb Paddon hosted the September meeting and the Mystery Auction raised \$110 to help defray the bridge expenses.

Member Jean Foster and her husband spoke on their trip to Iceland at the October meeting and Karen McCaw, executive director of Women's Place, gave members an insight into the services provided and the continuing financial need at the November meeting.

Once again a successful Wine and Cheese was held at the Bocking home with spouses in attendance.

Court Whist was enjoyed by all present at the home of Barb Paddon in January.

For the following meetings, Frank Prothero spoke on "The History of the Great Lakes", Sheelagh Carroll, education officer of the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Gallery described the artifacts on loan from the Royal Ontario Museum entitled "Heirlooms of Ontario Past", and Roberto Quai gave information regarding liqueurs and provided samples and recipes for homemade liqueurs.

Another successful year concluded at the Union Golf and Country Club with Marietta Roberts, M.P.P. as the slated guest speaker. Since she did not arrive, she agreed to speak at a later date.

Six new members joined the club, bringing the total to 36.

**1988 - 1989**

**PRESIDENT MARY ELLEN BOLT**

Our community service commitments were met through financial support to Women's Place and our presentation of the Children's Fun Series.

Pat Martyn opened her home on two occasions, first being the location for the September pot luck and then in October after the talk at Peter Robson's Gallery.

An open meeting in November proved to be well received by members and guests. The discussion of social and business etiquette was provided by Mary Weisman of Protocol London.

Barb and Bruce Green hosted the Christmas Wine and Cheese party which was enjoyed by all those attending.

1989 began with Court Whist at the home of Shirley Kovacs.

For the rest of the year, guest speakers included Dr. Arthur Langford, a noted biologist who spoke on the "Natural History" of the Long Point area and Dennis Jones, the Port Stanley author of the best seller The Winter Place. In April, the club visited Mary Rose Sanderson at her Trillium Studio.

Under the direction of Sarah Asseltine, the St. Thomas Academy Choir entertained at the May meeting held at the Union Golf and Country Club.

The membership stood at 37 (five new) with many attending the annual dinner meeting.

Only six scholarships were presented due to the closure of Alma College.

The Children's Fun Series proved popular with those who attended, but it was a disappointing year financially.

The January show opened with "Just in Time Theatre" from Nova Scotia, followed by Kim and Jerry Brodey. The final show was Robert Morgan performing "Morgan's Journey". These were top caliber performers, but not well known in the community.

Since some seats were available, complimentary tickets were given to Family and Children's Services for their Moms and Tots program and to the Protective Services program.

At the second show, regular subscribers with an adult in attendance were presented with two complimentary tickets to the last show. They were asked to give them to potential subscribers. This resulted in a good audience at the final show.

Discussion regarding the future of the series followed and it was decided to continue for at least another year.

1989 - 1990

**PRESIDENT MARY ELLEN BOLT**

The opening meeting, at the home of Chris Morrison, took the form of a potluck dinner followed by an auction, with the proceeds going towards the dessert bridge expenses.

In October, the club visited the London Regional Museum viewing an exhibit entitled "Lest We Forget" followed by a business meeting at the Ste. Hubert Restaurant.

An informative talk on drug and alcohol addiction was given by Linda Shepley, director of the Thomas Valley Addiction Assessment and Referral Centre in November.

The membership was put in the festive mood when they were welcomed into the home of Mary Jane Kraehling for the Wine and Cheese party.

Frank Prothero returned to speak on "The way We Were" with the "Big Band the Stork Club".

Varying from other years, the Court Whist evening was held in February at the home of Dianne Bocking.

Helpful hints for decorating were given at Jennings Furniture by Linda McLean at the March meeting.

Janet Collins, a London lawyer, involved with the Open Door program spoke on the association mandate to facilitate an awareness of careers for female secondary age adolescents in non-traditional areas by providing role models, resource personnel and guidance.

Once again, Union was the setting for the annual dinner meeting with Marietta Roberts, M.P.P. as the guest speaker. In the annual report it was noted that 40 members had joined, (seven new).

A donation of \$500 was given to Women's Place from the proceeds of the Dessert Bridge and Euchre, which had as its theme "The Colours of Spring".

The Children's Fun Series had a very successful year thanks to Helen Blake and many club members.

School shows were added for the Friday before the Saturday show with Charlotte Diamond, a bilingual entertainer. The three shows were booked to capacity.

Eric Nagler was a major draw for new subscribers and the Ontario Ballet Theatre performed as well.

Two hundred tickets were reserved at the end of the 1990 series indicating a high interest.

The series provided funds for scholarships, as well as donations to the theatre arts programme at Central Elgin and Arthur Voaden.

1990 - 1991

**PRESIDENT PAT MARTYN**

This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Children's Fun Series. Due to higher education costs the individual scholarships were increased to \$200 and the Theatre Arts Department at Arthur Voaden received a donation in appreciation of their help with the sound and lighting.

Although the recession had hit the community, the committee was encouraged by the sale of 554 series tickets and 195 single tickets. The closing balance was \$16,764.23, due to the hard work and dedication of the chairman and club members.

Bob Schneider opened the season and 12 students from Elgin County called the "Rainbow Kids", trained under Mary Jane Kraehling, also participated in the performance.

Next in the series Kaleidoscope Story Theatre, arrived from British Columbia and delighted the audience with "How the Raccoon Got Its Mask and Other Tales". On the day preceding the show several schools saw the show, "Tales of Then and Now".

To conclude the series, the Junior Jug Band under the direction of Ken and Chris Whitely and Chris's teenage children provided quality entertainment.

To celebrate the Year of Literacy, Dr. Colin Laine (UWO) spoke in November and told members how they could make a difference.

As started in 1971, the Wine and Cheese proved to be a pleasant evening of socializing. The evening was held at the home of Chris and Ken Morrison.

Colonel Talbot was brought to life in January due to Wayne Paddon's interest in local history.

On a blustery February evening Court Whist was enjoyed at the home of Pat Martyn.

March saw the members at the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Gallery given a tour of the Impressionists' exhibit by the executive director Ian Ross.

A sensitive talk about death entitled "Good Grief" was given by Allan Hughson in April.

At the closing meeting, Annette Richardson, the Ontario Council regional representative, spoke at the Union Golf Club. Not all 34 members were able to attend, but those who did, enjoyed the evening.

The Dessert Bridge took on a different format with the delicious desserts all displayed and not pre-cut as in the past and punch being served as well as coffee. Women's Place received \$400 from this project.

**1991 - 1992**

**PRESIDENT PATRICIA MARTYN**

The programs for this year of CFUW St. Thomas were a blend of serious and light.

The annual potluck supper and Dutch Auction introduced our season, hosted by Shirley Kovacs.

Marilyn Main, a supervisor with Women's Place, told us of the programs offered at the emergency shelter for abused women and children as our October meeting.

The programs from November through February took us to the homes of Chris Morrison to introduce us to her dried flower business, then the December social hosted by Judy and Al Thorner. January saw us visiting Russia with our guest speaker, Kim Yeoman, who gave us a realistic glimpse of life in that country. An evening of good fun and conversation was spent at Cathy Hedley's home in February around tables of Court Whist.

Joanne Racette, Communications Officer with Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario, was our guest at the March meeting and spoke of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

In April, Mayor of St. Thomas, Steve Peters presented an enjoyable armchair tour of historic St. Thomas buildings.

The annual May dinner and meeting was held at the Talbot Study with the St. Thomas Youth Choir providing the entertainment.

- Notable Notes:
1. Membership for the year – 26
  2. The annual Children's Fun Series was postponed for the year but will be renewed in 1992-93.
  3. Successful annual dessert bridge/euchre - \$400 to YWCA Women's Place
  4. A memorial donation was made to Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$144.45
  5. Scholarships -  $\$200 \times 6 = \$1200$
  6. Pat Martyn and Dianne Bocking attended CFUW Ontario Council Conference in Oakville
  7. New committee formed - Membership Revitalization

1992 – 1993

**PRESIDENT DIANNE BOCKING**

After a one year sabbatical, the Fun Series was re-introduced in December of 1992 under the direction of Judy Thorner and her committee with three programs scheduled for the '92-'93 season. Regretfully, the series was not successful financially. The series began with "But I'm Just A Kid", a disappointing performance, but was followed with a returning favourite, Bob Schneider and the Rainbow Kids. The final performance of the season was a real treat with puppeteer Norman Foote.

In September we travelled to Shedden and the home of Isabel Campbell for the potluck supper and in October we moved to Union and the studio of Paula Harris to learn about the use of stationery stamps.

The month of November brought us a fitness routine as our guest instructor Judith Macdonald introduced us to TAI CHI.

Our night of fitness was undone by the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and wine served at our annual Christmas social hosted by Barb and Bruce Green.

Dr. Kathy Miller was welcomed in January with her informal workshop on "Time and Stress Management"

Unfortunately, blizzard conditions played havoc with our March meeting, which had to be cancelled and then looking forward to spring and summer our guest speaker for April was skin care specialist Megan Carver.

Our annual May dinner and meeting was held at Kettle Creek Inn, Port Stanley with guest speaker Pauline Duncan of Ignite the Spirit.

- Notable Notes:
1. Membership for the year – 31
  2. Successful dessert bridge/euchre - \$580 to YWCA Women's Place
  3. Donation to Canadian Cancer Society - \$25
  4. Scholarships -  $\$200 \times 6 = \$1200$
  5. Dianne Bocking and Mary Jane Kraehling attended Ontario Council '92' – CFUW Windsor
  6. Dianne and Mary Jane also attended Ontario West Spring Gathering '93' – CFUW Kitchener -Waterloo

1993 - 1994

**PRESIDENT DIANNE BOCKING**

The 1993 -94 year of CFUW St. Thomas saw a successful season for the seventh Fun Series under the direction of Judy Thorner and her committee with the assistance of the Ontario Arts Council and local sponsorship. The three programs included the Ontario Ballet performing "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp", Eric Nagler and the Kaleidoscope Story Theatre presenting "Rapunzel and her Sisters".

The September potluck was held at the home of Elaine McGregor-Morris with the annual Dutch auction for the bridge/euchre providing fun and finances.

Our October guests discussing mid-wifery were Elana Johnson and Debbie Craig. Marion Weiner, a local florist delighted us with her talent creating Christmas designs at our November meeting.

Caroling around the piano with hosts Mary Ellen and Brian Bolt was the highlight of our December Wine and Cheese party.

Lyn Levandovski welcomed January 1994 with her presentation "Bring in the New Year with Laughter".

February brought us together at the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Gallery with Port Stanley potter Dick Foster, who walked us through the award winning exhibition titled "Fireworks 93"

March Break was responsible for low attendance at the March meeting so only business was attended to.

A thought provoking presentation in April by Sally Martyn, teacher and organic farmer, reminded us all that we must live in harmony with our earth by purchasing and consuming wisely.

Our May annual dinner meeting celebrated the 75th anniversary of CFUW with special guests Annette Richardson, Regional Director, Ontario West '90 - '94 and members of the CFUW London Club. Following dinner at the Kettle Creek Inn, Port Stanley, teacher and motivational speaker Carolyn Cameron gave us tips on "Dressing for Success".

- Notable Notes:
1. Membership for the year ---30
  2. Successful dessert bridge/euchre - \$562.96 donated for the first time to the scholarship fund
  3. Scholarships \$200 x 6 = \$1200
  4. Helen Blake, Dianne Bocking and Mary Jane Kraehling attended Ontario West Spring Gathering - CFUW Stratford.

1994 - 1995

**PRESIDENT - MARY JANE KRAEHLING**

The year began with our welcoming pot luck dinner at the home of Judy Thorner. A Dutch Auction was held to support our community service projects. Our members supported the Dessert Bridge again this year. Total receipts amounted to \$702.

This was the eighth year of the Children's Fun Series. Al Simmons in concert "Something's Fishy at Camp Wiganishie", The Ontario Ballet presenting "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe", and the Purple Dragon Puppet Troupe and "The Magic Garden" were the entertainers for this season.

We had a variety of interesting programs again this year. In October we were introduced to health alternatives by Aganetha Reimer, an owner of a health food store in the community. In November, Rebecca Parkes from the Psychiatric Hospital shared her knowledge with us on various coping skills for stress. In December we had our annual Wine & Cheese celebration.

The new year began with an informative home accessorizing presentation by Linda McLean. A dinner meeting was held at Samuel's restaurant in February and we were treated to gardening slides of Tom Intven's trip to New Zealand. In March, we did not schedule a meeting due to the conflict with March break; however, several of our members attended the Sears Drama Festival.

In April, one of our local artists, Rowena Spersrud, shared her knowledge of art with us. She took us on a journey through the many mediums of painting art. Her personal work impressed us immensely. Our closing dinner and meeting was held at Kettle Creek Inn in Port. Our membership for the year was 32 people.

1995 - 1996

**PRESIDENT- MARY JANE KRAEHLING**

The highlight of the year, was our club's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration held at Knox Presbyterian Church April 14. Founding members, Mary Belle Edmonds, Noreen Macdonald, Bert McKay, Mary Sanders and Verna Walker were in attendance. The archives were a focal point and lively reminiscences could be heard from former and present members. Our newly crafted silk-screened Club Banner, created by Susan Andrews and Kim Hughson, was displayed for the first time. The Anniversary Tea Committee did a fantastic job.

We had a variety of programs for the year. Donna Doelman, our local Justice of the Peace, spoke to the group in October about her role as a Justice of the Peace.

A new tradition began this year with a Ladies' Christmas Social. The club decided it was time for a change from the Wine and Cheese with spouses. We met at the home of one of our members and over wine and hors d'oeuvres we made a Christmas craft for the residents of Valleyview to show our appreciation for using their facilities at no cost. Beautiful Christmas ornaments with gold stars and ribbon were produced.

Our April meeting was very interesting as we had a presentation from Jan Wong, Globe and Mail Foreign Correspondent. She spoke of her experiences and life living in China. She had just published her book Red China Blues.

This was the last year for the Children's Fun Series which has made a significant contribution to the St. Thomas and surrounding communities. We have had a wide range of children's entertainers and the Fun Series will be missed. Hopefully, some other group in the community will take on this project. Many thanks to all the club members who have supported this activity.

1996 - 1997

**PRESIDENT - JUDY THORNER**

A membership committee was formed this year with the objective to address ways of attracting new members.

This year we supported our local library with their adopt-a-magazine program. Our club purchased Maclean's magazine for the year.

We discussed increasing our community support to such groups as Christmas Care, Women's Place, Caring Cupboard, Second Stage Housing etc. This would be a way to increase our community focus and visibility while helping people less fortunate.

Some of our members created a bridge interest group. We have two tables of bridge held on the last Thursday of the month. This has been an opportunity for some of our members to socialize with each other.

Once again we had a variety of interesting programs. As usual, we started the year with a Pot Luck supper held at the home of Mary Ellen Bolt. Our October meeting was held at the Art Gallery with a narrated tour of the permanent collection. Being that some of our members were "Founding Members" of the Art Gallery, the club is always interested in the Art Gallery. In November, our Mayor Steve Peters, was the host for the meeting at our newly renovated city hall. He entertained the club members with historical anecdotes of St. Thomas and area. Our December meeting was a presentation of phylo pastry by a local caterer at the home of Barb Green. In January we had an interesting demonstration on reflexology. Jim Medlyn, local stained glass artist, provided a very interesting talk on stained glass at the February meeting. Our April meeting was a fascinating interior design display of "before" and "after" rooms. We ended the year with a closing dinner at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club with Megan Carver discussing summer skin care. We had 27 members this year.

The Dessert Bridge and Euchre was held again this year. It was a great success. The money raised helps sponsor our scholarships.

1997 - 1998

**PRESIDENT - JUDY THORNER**

The Dessert Bridge and Euchre was a great success this year with a total of 37 tables. The money helps to support scholarships. Six \$200 scholarships were given to young women planning to attend university.

The club enjoyed a variety of interesting programs this year. In October Sharon Keenan, one of our former members, gave a travelogue and display of artifacts through her travels to China. She assisted in the development of Montessori schools in China.

"Coping with Christmas" was the title of the November meeting. Daphne Spence, a social worker in our community, gave an insight into the emotional issues related to Christmas.

Our talented member and home economist, Isabel Campbell, provided a presentation on Christmas entertaining and samples of hors d'oeuvre at the December meeting.

"Financial Realities for Women Today" was the topic of our January meeting put on by Suzanne Ferguson.

Winston's treated us to a fashion show at our March meeting. It put us in the mood for spring and summer.

In April we had a tour of the greenhouses at Pinafore Park and a discussion of the parks programme.

The year ended with our Annual Meeting held at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club. The membership for the year was 29.

1998 - 1999

**PRESIDENT - MARY ELLEN BOLT**

As usual, our club continued to support young female high school graduates with scholarships to be used toward university studies. We also made a commitment to support other issues concerning women with a donation given to the new breast screening clinic at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

Program highlights for the year were as follows:

John Thorburn spoke on E.M.G. an unique school for entrepreneurs in our community.

Dr. Steven Perry gave a travelogue on his recent trip to India.

Mike Flynn gave us a demonstration on Christmas Hors d'oeuvres.

The tour at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum in January was cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

Catherine McCallum, owner of Southbound Boutique in Port Stanley, gave us a "Behind the Scenes of the Fashion Industry" presentation.

"Insights into Newspaper Journalism" was the topic of our March meeting. Helen Connell, editor of the London Free Press, was our guest speaker.

Janet Medlyn, co-owner of Medlyn Stained Glass & Jewelry Studio, gave us a presentation on "Jewelry Through the Ages" at our April meeting.

Our membership remained at 29, the same as last year

1999 - 2000

**PRESIDENT - MARY ELLEN BOLT**

The 1999-2000 membership year has carried our organization into a new millennium in which we hope to continue to foster our goals of promoting education, and improving the social, economic and legal status of women. The history of our group in encouraging and promoting education with Elgin County has been strong, and we will strive to continue with this tradition in the future.

One of the initiatives that our club undertook this year was to refurbish a room at the YWCA. Several members of our club enthusiastically donated materials and labour. Funds from our community involvement account were used for the remaining expenses. It was a very successful make-over, and will be well used by women as they make the YWCA their temporary home.

We started out the year with the usual Pot Luck dinner. In October, Jim Waite spoke on his experiences as the coach of the 1998 Men's Curling team at the Olympics in Nagano. Don Armstrong, owner of Kettle Creek Chocolates was the guest speaker in November speaking on "The World of Chocolate". At our December meeting we learned how to "Decorate our Homes for Christmas" by Myra Tuer.

In January, CJBK Broadcaster, Jim Chapman, (just recovering from a heart attack) spoke on "Communication". February brought the return of Wayne Paddon who gave us a brief history of "Colonel Talbot's Elgin County".

A Fashion Show at Maggie Girl Clothing Store was enjoyed by all at our March meeting and The Queen of Clean and Clutter Control, Sandy Nunn gave us a talk on "Conquer the Clutter, Get Organized". The closing Dinner and Annual Meeting ended out the year in May. Our membership for the year was 27 members, three of whom were new.

2000 - 2001  
NANCY LAWRENCE

Our new President, Nancy Lawrence, was well-prepared for our first meeting, the traditional pot-luck dinner held at the home of Judy Thorner. Nancy had carefully reviewed the information available about our organization and had discovered that this was our 50th anniversary. She also found a history of our club prepared at the time of the Club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary highlighting the achievements of the first 25 years and she suggested that a similar review be done highlighting the last 25 years.

A committee was organized to prepare this "history", as well as plan an Anniversary Celebration. The committee was composed of the following: Marilyn Andrews, Helen Blake, Isabel Campbell, Cathy Hedley, and Barb Paddon. Each assumed the responsibility for doing a summary of a five year period, based on the Annual Reports. The Report to be presented at the Anniversary Celebration. The Celebration will be held at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Leslie Thompson, three time Olympic Medalist for Rowing. Musical entertainment will be provided by the St. Paul's United Church Youth Choir. Ardith Toogoode will be our CFUW representative. Invitations will be sent out to all former members inviting them to attend this special evening.

For the monthly meetings, the executive planned an interesting variety of topics including financial planning, a presentation at a furniture store and a lively demonstration of Scottish Highland Dancing. One of the most stimulating meetings was member Deb Armstrong's presentation of her experiences working with CUSO in Africa in the 70's. The Christmas meeting was held at the home of Helen Blake. Each member brought an hors d'oeuvre or wine and a small gift that was raffled off with the money going to help fund the Dessert Bridge. It was a fun evening.

The Bridge fund-raiser was held again this year chaired by Dianne Bocking and Deb Armstrong .

Mary Jane Kraehling will be our representative at The International Federation Of University Women to be held in Ottawa in August.

This year's membership was twenty-five members.