



The CFUW-Saint John Scholarship Fund

Marking over eighty years of university women, active in local affairs

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)-Saint John is a women's organization, which was established in 1924. It is a member of The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)-, a voluntary, non-profit, self-funded bilingual organization of over 10,000 women university graduates in 122 member clubs. These clubs are active in public affairs, working to raise the social, economic and legal status of women, as well as to improve education, the environment, peace, justice and human rights. Clubs are member affiliates of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

The history of CFUW-Saint John goes back eight decades and has been faithfully documented and celebrated on special anniversary years. The first meeting called to discuss the formation of a University Women's Club in Saint John was held March 13, 1924 at the home of Miss Helen Smith. Florence Estabrooks acted as temporary chair and Faith Henderson as temporary secretary. The founding executive was elected as follows: President - Helen Smith; 1st Vice-president - Miss Gale; 2nd Vice-president - Miss Estabrooks; Secretary - Miss Lucy Smith; Treasurer - Miss Goodwin; Honorary President - Dr. Parks. Additional executive members included: Miss Robertson, Miss Ewing, Miss Pickett, Miss Morse, Miss Ganong. The establishment of a constitution was placed in the hands of the new executive to decide at future meetings, but one principle was clear, the value of education to women and their role in the community would be of high importance.

CFUW-Saint John first approved the founding of an annual tuition scholarship of \$60.00 in February 1942, for a local female post-graduate entering grade XII. Proceeds from a rummage sale were used for this new initiative. The first recipient of this scholarship was Miss Marion Magnison of Saint John High School. CFUW-Saint John has continued to provide scholarships locally over the years while, at the same time, supporting scholarships at the national level. For many years, an annual Book Fair was a local club fundraiser, as well as a vehicle for encouraging literacy economically. The club has also sponsored various sales and functions as it continues to build its scholarship fund.

The following excerpts from records of meetings of CFUW-Saint John confirm the impressive influence and strength of the organization from its inception, as it strove to fulfill the club's mandate.

October 1926: Regarding the proposed new high school for Saint John, the club's school committee recommended that, "because no land had been purchased for the building, the club urge, by means of the press, the taking of immediate action".

October 1926: President Florence Estabrooks introduced the advisability of building a residence in Fredericton for women students attending the University of New Brunswick and the New Brunswick Normal School. A resolution was agreed upon by the meeting, requesting the Provincial Legislature to

consider erecting and maintaining such a residence. Miss Leslie Pickett and Miss Muriel Corkery were appointed to draft the resolution.



CFUW-Saint John Celebrates its 50th in 1974
Emma Wilson, unidentified, Miriam Mahoney,
Marjorie Taylor, Eleanor Dow, Una Wilson, unidentified,
Helen Smith Skinner



Jean Flemming and Helen Smith Skinner,
founding President

October 1928: The club recognized the importance of making their positions known to elected officials and made direct contact with the Premier of the province. However, a letter of regret from the Honorable R. B. Bennett was read expressing his, “inability to assist financially”, with procuring a residence in Fredericton for women students attending UNB and Normal School.

October 1928: Miss Estabrooks, Miss Stodart, Miss Dobson, Miss Coleman and Miss Evans were elected as representatives to the Saint John Council of Women. This meeting also supported the need for a remedial Social Services Agency to deal with the flagrant social problems that plagued Saint John, as follows: “unemployment, illiteracy, drifters, vice, poverty”, to mention a few. No Social Services Agency existed in Saint John at that time.

May 1930: The meeting reported that the first permanent mailing address for literature sent to the club was established at Saint John Vocational School. A shelf in the school library was assigned to the club by Fletcher Peacock, the school’s principal.

January 1931: A motion was passed advocating the placing of women on governing boards of Universities, teaching staffs and School Boards. The club demonstrated leadership through Advocacy for the advancement of women in all branches of employment on an equal basis, putting it at the forefront of their lobbying efforts.

February 1931: Favorable action was taken by the executive in the Community Theatre Project.

February 1938: “The Drama League had its origins in this club”, stated the President.

March 1941: Of the \$2.00 membership fee, \$1.50 was sent to the Canadian National Federation for scholarship funds.

October 1941: President Emma Wilson emphasized the role that women could play in the community, pointing out that leadership is expected of university women. Miss Wilson spoke of the opportunity to provide \$60.00 tuition per year for a girl entering grade XII. She also made an appeal for first aid classes for high school girls.

January 1942: President Emma Wilson announced that she had enlisted in the C.W.A.A.F. and would be leaving the city before the next meeting.

March 1945: The club membership fee was raised to \$3.00 with \$1.00 going to the local scholarship fund.

November 1963: A letter was sent to the City Action Committee expressing the Club’s support in establishing a university in Saint John.

In 2004, the club celebrated its eightieth Anniversary at Villa Madonna, with a dinner and walk through the decades. Club members, attired in the clothing of the era they represented, along with a display of artifacts, photos and documents gave a delightful historical perspective on the club and its activities. The presence of CFUW National President Rose Beatty and CFUW Atlantic Vice-President Eleanor Palmer added special significance to the evening, which was coordinated by President Faye Somers.



CFUW Anniversary Celebration at Villa Madonna



CFUW members attend an Atlantic CFUW meeting in Prince Edward Island, 2006

Over the years, CFUW-Saint John formed many Committees, responding to international, national and local matters of concern to educated women. As part of the International and National Federations of University Women, they were regular participants in their meetings, taking positions in matters of mutual interest relating to the social, economic and legal status of women, as well as to improve education, the environment, peace, justice and human rights.

The Past Presidents, who have directed CFUW-Saint John over the years, have been community leaders, actively involved, often in many spheres. In chronological order of their service from 1924 to the present, they are: Helen Smith Skinner, Florence Estabrooks, Alma Gale, Harriet Roberts, Lucy Allan, Mrs. E.J. Ryan, Lelia Kee, Clare Roderick, Lorene Evans, Emma Wilson, Eleanor Dow, Virginia Darling, Mary McGonagle, Mrs. Kirk Ferguson, Mary Lou Lynch, Una Wilson, Evelyn Logan, Doris Whipple, Shirley MacCallum, Ruby MacNeill, Jean Matheson, Mary Maddox, Maureen Dunphy, Doris Martin, Jean Flemming, Gertrude Aarela, Jane Barry, Bonnie Lloyd, Anne Turner, Shirley Pettifer, Evelyn Logan, Mary Losier-Roderick, Judy Willis, Angela Odei, Lola Casey, Mary Burchill, Alison Hannah, Donna Cole, Mary Doherty, Colleen Maloney, Faye Somers and Ann Barrett.



CFUW-Saint John Executive members gather for the 2007 annual dinner

Greater Saint John Community Foundation Board members and the Canadian Federation of University Women-Saint John celebrated local philanthropy and education on March 15, 2007. Club President Ann Barrett signed an agreement whereby the Community Foundation has taken over responsibility for funds which CFUW-Saint John has raised over several decades. Mrs. Barrett was joined by Executive Members of CFUW-SJ and the board of the Community Foundation for the sixty-four thousand dollar scholarship fund signing ceremony. Mrs. Barrett stated she is, “optimistic that CFUW-Saint John and its members will continue to augment this fund. It is an advantage for our club to now offer charitable receipts. We are also pleased to turn over responsibility for management of our money to the Saint John Foundation. It will enable us to focus our fundraising efforts on other community causes as well”.

“Your initiative, as long-standing supporters of education for women, is to be commended”, said Michael Doyle, FCA and Chairman of the Community Foundation. “It is encouraging to have generous benefactors like CFUW-Saint John come forward, who have been dedicated to improving the quality of life in their community and are leaving a lasting legacy. We find it doubly satisfying to help donors attain their charitable goals, while adding to the pool of awards our local young people can access”, he added.

By donating \$64,000 to The Greater Saint John Community Foundation, a new permanently endowed fund has been created by CFUW-Saint John. It will annually support three scholarships for women from the Saint John area who are or will be enrolled as full-time university students:

CFUW-Saint John Entrance Scholarship- \$1,000

Jean Flemming Memorial Scholarship for Mature Students - \$1,500

Lillian D. and Charles R. Bone Memorial Scholarship for Post-Graduate Study - \$1,500

Jean Flemming was a past club President and Lillian D. Bone a past club member. The 2007-2008 recipients are: Soleil Leger, \$1,000 (UNB Entrance Scholarship) and Edith-Rose Cairns, \$1,500 (Flemming Memorial Scholarship).



**March 2007, the establishment of the CFUW-Saint John Scholarship Fund with the
Greater Saint John Community Foundation**

Membership inquiries are welcome by CFUW-Saint John and are open to any woman who has a university degree or a professional designation that now requires a degree or is interested in the pursuit of knowledge, promotion of education, improvement of the status of women & girls as well as the active participation in public affairs in the spirit of cooperation & friendship.

The CFUW-Saint John scholarship selection is made annually by the club's Scholarship Committee. Applications for the scholarships may be directed to: **Chairperson, CFUW-Saint John Scholarship Committee, PO Box 6233; Station A, Saint John, NB E2L 4R7. Applications are also posted on the Foundation's web-site.**

Inquiries for membership may be made by contacting present club members or by directing correspondence to: **Chairperson, Membership Committee, PO Box 6233; Station A, Saint John, NB E2L 4R7 or cfuwsj@gmail.com.**

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation serves as trustee for charitable, educational and cultural purposes. It administers funds given by public-spirited individuals for the benefit of the people of this area. Since 1976, the foundation's assets have grown to approximately \$9M. In 2006, it donated in excess of \$320,000.00 to over 75 local charities. Applications from local registered charities are received twice yearly.

"Grants of \$4.1 Million to over 250 Saint John area charities for youth, seniors, social services, health, education, heritage, the arts and the environment since 1976"

For further information contact:

Jane Barry, Executive Director, P.O. Box 20061, Brunswick Sq., Saint John, N.B. E2L 5B2

Street address: Business Resource Centre, Fourth Floor, 40 King St., Saint John, NB

tel. 506-672-8880 fax. 506-672-8881 e-mail sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com

www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca