

SHERBROOKE & DISTRICT

Club Report

Membership

To date, we have increased our membership by 14 (11 new – 3 returning). However, there are 6 members who have decided to leave the club, primarily due to the fact they are not able to make our meetings due to their busy schedules, personal and work. Orientation for new and returning members – we held a Potluck Supper in October to welcome new members and 2 members of our Executive are hosting a 5 à 7 at their homes to have more in depth discussions about CFUW/GWI and give them an opportunity to ask questions and generally get to know our club. I have also prepared At A Glance to give to new members – sequel to the PowerPoint presentation I created a couple of years ago. I have brought a few copies if Presidents would like to have one.

Public Profile

Our Club has run a series of nine articles in the local newspaper – each article emphasizes different aspects of our club initiatives with photos – run under the banner of 50 Years of Community Involvement. We were just interviewed by another local English newspaper for an article about our club – will be appearing in the next couple of weeks. Sherbrooke & District was named Outstanding Townshippier in June 2018 for our contribution to the community. In addition to having our members ask others to join the club, we believe that the articles have significantly raised the awareness of our Club and its contribution to the community.

Advocacy

In addition to reviewing the Resolutions, our club has aligned our Speakers program to mirror some aspects of the Resolutions. For example, we had the Founder and Director of the recently opened Mon Shack, a new facility with 18 transitional housing units located in Lennoxville, providing bilingual services for youth 18 to 36 living with mental health issues. In April 2019 we will have speakers from Service d'Aide aux Neo-Canadiens. This effort will make our members aware of services in our local community.

For the fourth year, we are continuing with our food card program for Aboriginal students at Champlain College, Lennoxville campus. As well, we will be holding the fourth annual potluck supper for the students in this program in late January or early February. It has now become a tradition and the students look forward to the evening.

Our Advocacy Chair is planning to expand the Advocacy Committee to include Current Affairs with the hope of attracting members to participate in discussions of issues affecting our local and national communities.

Scholarship/Fellowship

Lampe Foundation, our club's registered charitable foundation, continues to expand our offerings. In partnership with a local foundation, we will now be funding a second physician to pursue studies in family medicine. In 2018, the Foundation awarded close to \$40,000 to support students at all educational levels (high school, vocational training, Cegep and University). In December 2018, we will again award our CFUW Commemorative Award to honour one of our visionary women and an outstanding student who best exemplifies a CFUW member. We are also raising funds for an Indigenous Scholarship for a student attending Bishop's University in the Department of Education. We have strategically chosen education as we believe this individual will be able to encourage youth to stay in school and guide generations of young people. To date, we have raised \$19,500 on our goal of \$25,000. We plan to award the 1st scholarship in 2019 to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of CFUW. We are also proud of the fact that we rank 6th nationally in awards given behind Victoria, Vancouver, Ottawa, Toronto and St. John's NL. We feel this is a significant achievement by a rural Quebec club.

Sustainability

Leadership of the Club is our greatest challenge. For two years we have not had a Vice President or a successor to me. Our current strategy is to have an experienced member to serve for one year to allow us to have a new member assume the role of Vice President for one full year prior to becoming President. To date, we have one member who is prepared to serve as President for 6 months from June to January (she spends winters in the South). Need to find someone who will do the next 6 months (January to June).

One of the challenges is the National scene – no one has an appetite for dealing with current issues such as GWI. In addition to being Past President in 2019, I have agreed to serve as CFUW Liaison to assist the President or Co-Presidents for the year.

We are also looking at a new initiative to have a younger members interest group, similar to Millenials Group in Vancouver. They would organize their own agenda, speaker, etc. This could also include members who are still in the workforce who would be able to make evening or lunch time meetings – something they can't do now as most of our activities are during the day. Participants would be able to attend our regular events and our members could attend their events. Hope to have it up and running by September 2019.

Otherwise, our club is thriving with nine interest groups attracting high participation.