

Ottawa Council of Women 2016 October Bulletin

*Women working together to
Improve the lives of women,
their families and
communities*



2016/17 Theme:
*Safety and Security
of Persons*

Contact us : www.ottawacw.ca

Welcome , 2016/17 Ottawa Council of Women Federate Members :

- * Acorn
- * Anglican Church Women, Ottawa Diocese
- * Beta –Sigma Phi, Ottawa
- * Carefor Health Community Service
- * Canadian Federation of University Women of Kanata
- * Canadian Federation of University Women of Ottawa
- * Dominion-Chalmers United Church Women
- * Home Economics Association of Ottawa
- * Multifaith Housing Initiative
- * Ontario Association of Social Workers- Eastern Branch
- * Ottawa City Union, Order of King's Daughters & Sons
- * Polish Canadian Women's Federation Ottawa #8
- * Ottawa Presbyterian United Church Women
- * Quota Club of Ottawa
- * Retire- at - Home
- * Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Ottawa
- * Rideau Park United Church Women
- * Ukrainian Women's Association – Ottawa
- * Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- * Zonta Club of Ottawa

Invitation

Ottawa Council of Women

2016 October General Membership Meeting

On: Tuesday, October 18th, Persons Day

At : Rideau Park United Church

2203 Alta Vista /Cunningham

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon: Persons Day Tea

12:noon to 1:00 p.m. Panel Discussion, Q&A

TOPIC: Student Learning and School

Accommodation Study: Ottawa

Carleton District School Board

Panelists:

- 1) Mike Carson - Chief Financial Officer, OCDSB**
- 2) Shirley Seward - Chair of the Board. OCDSB
Zone 11**
- 3) Chris Ellis - Trustee, Zone 6 Rideau-Rockcliffe/
Alta Vista**

1:15 p.m. Short Business Meeting

Student Learning and School Accommodation issues are important to all communities. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is reviewing plans to close a number of schools. As taxpayers, our voice is important for future planning for our City of Ottawa Public Schools. Info Sheila Perry, VP and Program Chair, OCW 613-407-7434 cell



Invitation

Ottawa Council of Women

November General Meeting

On: Tuesday, November 15, 2016,

At : Rideau Park United Church,

2203 Alta Vista Drive (at Cunningham)

Business Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Speaker Program at 12:00 noon

Theme: " Food Security - Food Access &
Food Systems in Ottawa."

Light lunch available.



PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ONTARIO CALENDAR 2016/17

October – 3rd week President Takes Briefs to
Queen's Park

October – 2nd week Agenda for Semi-Annual
Meeting, flyer and registration form for
Semi-Annual Meeting in Toronto is sent
to membership

November 14 & 15 -Board Meeting, Semi-Annual
Meeting in Toronto

November 30 - Deadline for submitting resolutions

January 15 - Resolutions are sent to membership

March 31st Deadline for submitting amendments to
resolutions and updates



From The President

On Person's Day, a program about Student Learning and a study and review of the use of school buildings in the Ottawa Carleton District School Board does not seem to be a very inspired topical "women's issue" for the occasion. But in fact, we do well on this day to remember also that in order to influence even their immediate world with equality, Canadian women needed not only to win access to the Senate, but also to all municipal boards and later of course corporate boards as well. In Ottawa as in other cities, women fought hard to have a seat and to have a voice on school boards with regard to the use of school buildings and school property as these concerned the welfare of all children. Of great concern were also the working conditions of female teachers. The question of female representation on the various municipal boards had bubbled along from the year 1897 on until 1927, when anger over the early retirement age of women teachers prompted action that resulted in 1933 in the election of two women, both Council of Women members, one to the Collegiate Board and one to the Public School Board.

In 1901, considering the living conditions of many children, the local Council of London, Ont. put forward the following National Resolution on the "Establishment of Vacation Schools and Playgrounds":

"Resolved: - that this National Council of Women declare themselves in favour of the establishment of Vacation Schools and Playgrounds. And pledge themselves to do all in their power to promote their organization." And "that application be made by local Councils to the different School Boards to allow existing school grounds to be used for recreation, under proper supervision, during vacation months." Prior to the First World War Councils across Canada started a tremendously successful movement for the establishment of supervised playgrounds.

In 2009, the Provincial Council of Women Ontario added a resolution again urging community use of publicly funded school buildings. And last June PCWO wrote the following letter to the Hon. Liz Sandals, Minister of Education: (continued p.3)

(Continued from p.2: From The president)

“The Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) is pleased that your Government will be helping schools become community hubs. In 2006 we advocated childcare in schools so that the number of childcare spaces would be increased without using funds for new construction. It would also provide a seamless day in the child’s schooling so that the child would not be moving from one site to another.

In 2009 we urged community use of publicly funded school buildings and facilities. Locating public library branches, day care centres, health centres, adult education classes, various clubs and community events in schools would help cover the cost of maintenance of schools with declining enrolment. School boards and municipal planning committees working together can make publicly funded school buildings the hub of their community.

Thank you for investing in schools to expand child care and family support programs and creating spaces in schools for community use.”

It will be most instructive to hear what the local situation is and how our Ottawa School Board intends to balance its own and community need with the financial challenges of maintaining “surplus” school buildings and facilities. As you can see, the fate of school buildings and school facilities is a “women’s issue” of long Standing for our Council. On the other issue of board membership, women certainly have arrived, but are we happy with its diversity?

We hope that you will join us at the October General Meeting on October 18th, Persons Day and at that time raise a cup of tea with us to the Famous Five, ”, Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Henrietta Muir Edwards who laid the legal groundwork for us all, our daughters and granddaughters to have the choice to do consequential work in all areas of public policy and governance. (Edeltraud Neal)



September 20th General Meeting

Business Meeting: Members of *Acorn* presented their newest call to action for healthy homes for all renters in low-cost-housing. *Acorn* asked for Council’s support with this advocacy.

Noon Hour Speaker: Karla Hilton, CBC Radio One Theme: *Behind the scenes of a CBC Radio Show. How what you hear on the radio gets to air?*

From her wealth of experience Karla Hilton described the magic of radio to tell stories and to draw listeners into these stories of various kind. Putting on a radio show is not all magic exactly, but lots of planning, precision, sometimes improvisation and always team work under pressure. Karla answered questions from current language and style, grammar at the CBC, , programming and radio hosts. Karla Hilton has been the senior producer of

CBC Radio's Ottawa Morning for the past decade. Karla has been working with the CBC since 1995 as a reporter, a planning producer, an assignment editor and as a chase producer. Karla also teaches radio skills at the CBC. She has won several major awards for her work, including two Gabriel Awards, a Canadian Medical Association Broadcast award, and most recently the Gzowski Award from the Radio and Television News Directors for Ottawa Morning's coverage of the Parliament Hill Attack.

We thank Barbara Gray, KDS, for her gracious introduction of Karla , Sheila MacKay for the hospitality, all who contributed to the smooth running of the meeting and of course also Thanks to all who came out.

CATCH - UP FROM A LONG BEAUTIFUL SUMMER

Monica Cullum, OCW Convenor for Status of Women

The long beautiful days of summer are now past us. I hope everyone found time to relax and enjoy a little time for reading, gardening or just being with friends or whatever made the days pleasant for you.. Fall is now here and the time has come to address a few serious matters that accumulated during those heady summer days.

Item # 1 - PERSONS DAY

Yes, October 18th is just around the corner. It's a day that, as women, always brings us back to reality. The day from which the concept of women's equality was established. The day in 1929 when women were declared persons. Imagine that. - We had rights. This gives us cause for celebration.

We need to remember that the rights of women are still not embedded in society. We only have to turn on the 6:00 o'clock news to know that women are harassed and degraded at even the highest levels to recognize that in celebrating we also need to persevere in our determination to achieve our goals. So while celebrating we're reminded that the work is not over.

Item # 2 - RCMP COMMISSIONER APOLOGIZES

In 1974 when the RCMP opened the doors to women the National Council of Women raised concerns about women joining an organization dominated by men. In 2011 when Mr. Paulson was appointed Commissioner in the midst of allegations of sexual abuse and harassment of women in the RCMP, NCWC wrote to him reminding him of this concern. He responded immediately assuring us that he took this issue seriously and those changes were forthcoming. Last week he made good on that promise. The process is in the early stages but like the women affected by this, we in Council can take heart in his determination to eradicate this stain on an organization that in other ways make Canadians proud.

Others organizations should not be smug about suggesting that this happens only in our National Police Force. Over the past year we have heard of problems in other police services, within fire departments, the military, the media, on university campuses and in the corporate world. So called "locker room talk", sexual innuendo, harassment of any kind is not acceptable wherever it occurs. If we have a wish this Persons Day it is that leadership will emerge in other organizations that can learn from Commissioner Paulson's perseverance and know that change is expected sooner rather than later.

Item # 3 -BEING PARTISAN VS. BEING POLITICAL

The work of NCWC/ PCWO/OCW is often political, but never partisan. Being political involves shared values, working toward a common goal, and for a result that serves the community. Advocacy is a way of influencing legislation and regulations through government at all levels. NCWC/PCWO/OCW regularly develop policy that enables us to take political action, for example on violence against women or food safety or various health issues.

Partisan activities are directly related or committed to a political party or person. We do not endorse any particular candidate for election in partisan politics. We may host all candidates meetings, or other all party events or work to encourage women to become involved in politics or citizens to get out and vote for their chosen candidate. Individual members can have personal opinions or support political candidates of their choice. They cannot however, involve NCWC, PCWO or OCW.

ITEM # 4 - SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Anyone who read David Foote's Boom, Bust and Echo in the early 90's should not be surprised at the plan to close schools. Coupled today with economics, lower enrollment and aging structures requires something to be

done. Consolidating schools seems to be a common answer. And lower schools are not the only ones - universities too are facing many of the same issues. Maybe it's time to review Foote's work of decades ago and some of his later work as well.

These glorious fall days filled with the red, orange and yellow of the changing environment helps us to feel positive about our world in spite of everything going on around us. Even so fall weather also brings clouds to mar the sunny days and reminds us that even on bright days a few drops of rain must fall. Perseverance and experience based on our recollection of the efforts of our sisters in the past - think of the Famous Five - keeps us going

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PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ONTARIO SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AND BRIEF PRESENTATION



Tuesday, November 15th, 2016

Queen's Park, Room 228, Legislative Building

Registration @ 8:30am

Question Period in the morning

Lunch in Cafeteria

MPP visits in the afternoon

Register by November 4th

Board Meeting on Monday, November 14th at 4pm in President's Room

Accommodation

Deadline for room reservation is Friday, October 14th

Holiday Inn Toronto (Bloor - Yorkville)

280 Bloor Street West

Make reservations at Sonia.waite@whg.com

or

416-968-0010 ext. 1520

Specify you are with the Provincial Council of Women

Rates: One Queen - \$144.99

Two Double - \$149.99

Registration Fee: \$50.00

(includes breaks and brief)

Please send cheques payable to PCWO by November 4th, 2016

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This OCW Bulletin appears monthly. Members' short contributions welcome. Please e-mail your contribution *by the 20th of each month* to news@ottawacw.ca or call 613-731-2737