

Founded 1939 as the Faculty Women's Club

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President's Message

Greetings ladies! It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. The FWC/QWA has now been around for 83 years!

It has been a transition year. We were looking forward to using our new facilities so very much, but Queen's Covid restrictions necessitated operating off-campus. As the pandemic worsened, members did not feel it was safe to attend activities. It was March before members began to use the house. We hope that in September 2022, life at QWA will be back to normal with all interest groups operating from within our lovely, new facility.

In my message last year, I was proud to note our numerous initiatives and achievements. I also told you about our 2021-22 plans: to offer in-house educational classes; to form a committee to look into ways in which we fulfill our obligations to Queen's, in terms of enhancing collegial life at Queen's; and the creation of a QWA (3-fold) promotional brochure that outlines who we are and what we offer, etc. Because we were not in operation for much of the year, we could not action these initiatives.

I wish to welcome the women who have become members this past year. Our activities

and events will provide you with opportunities to participate and learn, to connect with old friends and make new ones. Our Interest Group Coordinators work to ensure that your experience will be an enjoyable one. I thank them wholeheartedly for opening their homes and finding alternate venues during our trying times. They are truly remarkable – as is our Interest Groups Chair! Some of our Coordinators would like to give other members the opportunity to convene. We need Coordinators; they make QWA work. No experience needed. So please consider stepping up to volunteer.

I feel fortunate to have worked with our Executive members. Many tasks were formidable, such as the move from 144 and the ups and downs, mostly downs, of the pandemic. Their contributions to QWA are many and I thank them for all they have done.

As I end three years as your President, I look forward to the role of Past President. I know your new President, Shelagh McDonald will have your support. Welcome, Shelagh.

I am so very grateful for your support these past three years and it has been an honour to serve as your President. I look forward to reconnecting with members at the Membership Tea. Everyone, enjoy your summer, be safe, and I'll see you in the Fall!

Valerie Klassen



Interest Groups

Congratulations to all Interest Group Coordinators. Thanks to their flexibility and efforts,

groups have remained active despite the move from 144 Albert and the confusion caused by Covid. Using ZOOM, alternative places and private homes, groups have carried on successfully. Most are now meeting at 187A King regularly and QWA members are clearing and planting the garden, ready for summer gatherings on the deck.

Parking is proving less of a deterrent as members become accustomed to obtaining on-street parking exemptions from City Hall and the allotment of one parking spot on the courtyard in front of the house has made access easier for members with mobility problems.

Both Bridge Groups, Intermediate and Social Duplicate, are meeting regularly at 187A after recurrent difficulties and uncertainties associated with moving and Covid restrictions. Sadly, after many years of convening the Intermediate Bridge and Theme Luncheon Groups and contributing to the well-being of QWA in many ways, Cheryl Walker has decided to move on to other things. Thank you for your invaluable input to our association over the past years, Cheryl. You will be missed. Our best wishes to you for the future.

Sad to say, some longstanding Interest Groups may not be offered next year. For many years Bridge with Coaching and the Genealogy group have benefitted from the skilled

and generous mentorship of Rosalie Wintle who has decided to step down from those responsibilities. Many, many thanks, Rosalie, for the time and energy you have committed to those groups. All your special contributions to QWA activities are very much appreciated.

Thanks, also, to Mary Jean McIntyre and Jean Mair, who were the coordinators of the Investors' Circle this past year. As yet, the Investors' Circle has no Coordinator and Cooking with Grammas needs new members if it is to continue. This group is important as it connects QWA closely with students. Mary Ellen Courtright and Helen Maclean have diligently and successfully continued running it on-line during COVID. Hopefully, it will return to its pre-Covid format in the Fall – in person, in the house and with a committed group of QWA volunteers.

We can accommodate many more groups!! A quick look at a list of past Interest Groups includes quilting, art, play-reading, discussion, knitting, stitch and chat, out and about, line dancing, current affairs, film and others. Especially important are activities that involve outreach to all members of the Queens Community. Contact me with your ideas and let's see what we can do!!

***Liz Harrison
Chair, Interest Groups***



Book Exchange

The QWA Book Exchange has now completed our “Top Ten” book exchanges for the 2021-22 membership year.

Our QWA club building was not available, so with the assistance of the Executive of QWA, we were able to have the initial first book distribution located at the Unitarian Place on Concession Street. It was a glorious fall day. The books were distributed just outside the Hall, in the parking lot, well within compliance with the Queen’s University Covid 19 safety procedures, as done the previous year.

We had sixty members in the Book Exchange Group this year, divided into six groups. Our final exchange was May 19th and each member keeps the last book passed to them.

There are no words sufficient to thank our committee members Millie Morton, Maja-Lisa Thompson and Rachael Souch for bearing the responsibility of reading the books and preparing the book reports for review. Claire Shragge, without whose skills with the computer, our exchange groupings would be much more difficult to manage. As well, appreciation is due to former members of the Committee who offered suggestions of books to consider for the “Top Ten” List.

Now that we have managed to successfully keep the Book Exchange going during Covid, the QWA Treasurer will receive the excess funds from the past three years of the Book Exchange to be applied to the QWA Scholarship fund.

The QWA Book Exchange is planning for another year of book exchanges to start in Octo-

ber, 2022 and welcomes participation in the committee to assist in the selection of books and administration. Please, contact Coordinator, Lorraine Watson at 613-453-7992 or watsonlor119@outlook.com for further information.

Lorraine Watson
Coordinator, Book Exchange



Scribblers’ Writing Group

Our Scribblers group was started around 2006 by Margie Courchene. Margie co-

ordinated for many years and was followed by Ann Levison: for their inspiration and guidance we are truly grateful.

A simple structure was put in place from the beginning. Members bring a short piece to read during the first hour. At half-time we are given a subject and fifteen minutes to write, then we share. At the end of each meeting an optional subject for the following month is offered.

Last month the suggestion was to choose a photo and write about it. In the second hour we briefly described a school teacher we had known and wrote them a short letter. We are never critical of others work. We listen, learn and support. People often write biographically with humour and pathos. Be it fact or fiction the stories are memorable.

We meet on the first Wednesday morning of the month, enjoy tea, coffee, snacks and even though the last two years have been a struggle, we have been able to email our stories, meet at private houses and now at long last gather in our QWA house. New members are always welcome.

Barbara Matthews
Coordinator, Scribblers’ Writing Group



Book Discussion

Eleven members chose and discussed seven books ranging from the complexities for a black woman passing as white

in California, story of Syrian refugees seen through the eyes of children, precarious life in 11th century Europe, a dystopian future of genetically modified children and their artificial friends, the origin of the Israel/Palestinian conflict, the Canada Reads winner about the life of residential school survivors after they graduate and an exciting tale of a young girl of mixed blood involved in an FBI investigation into drug trafficking in her community.

As might be expected the ensuing conversation was always lively and informed. To accommodate the changing Covid regulations we met in a community hall, members' homes and in April, the QWA house. On average there were six or seven members at each meeting.

I would like to thank all the members for their enthusiasm and contributions. I am looking forward to convening the group next year.

Liz Harrison
Coordinator, Book Discussion



Theme Luncheon

Covid prevented us again from hosting monthly luncheons this past year so we improvised with a fall luncheon at Lake On-

tario Park. Then we had a couple of luncheons in members' homes and in April and May we christened 187A. The theme was: Keep it Simple. The hostesses cooked, baked and entertained the guests. The dishes were not simple but few in number so we left without feeling stuffed and food was not wasted. It was also a pleasant change of not having to cook for every function.

We are thrilled to welcome Marion Westenburg and Anita Krebs as the 2022-23 coordinators. Expect to see further changes. Enjoy the summer. Save your delicious recipes and see you in the fall.

Cheryl Walker and Jane Coffey
Coordinators, Theme Luncheon

Walking Group

The QWA walking group was pleased to resume activities last Fall. We had lovely walks to places like Lake Ontario Park, Sydenham, Cataraqui Cemetery and the Inner Harbour as well as visits to group members' property on Hwy 2 and in Harrowsmith. All our leaders endeavoured to arrange routes which accommodated a variety of fitness levels and treated us to much appreciated refreshments. The social time during and after the walks is a very important part of this group, so we were delighted to reconnect post-pandemic. This Win-

ter's icy conditions and further restrictions on indoor gathering meant we had no Winter walks this year but we were back in full swing for a lovely Spring.

We look forward to meeting again in the Fall and welcoming any new members. Starting in September, 2022 we will return to our previous schedule of the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Trudi O'Neill

Coordinator, Walking Group

Walking Group at Wolfe Island, September , 2021

Trudi O'Neill, Coordinator



Canada Reads

Canada Reads has become an annual tradition for some of us. In January each year, CBC, the sponsoring organization, announces a long list and then a short list of five, that speaks to a particular theme. The theme varies from year to year and in 2022 the theme was “**One Book to Connect Us.**”

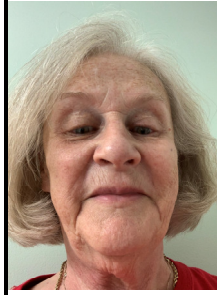
QWA *Canada Reads*, a relatively new offering, is an opportunity to read and talk about some of Canada’s most noted recent publications. This year, our group of five gathered on five Monday mornings for no more than an hour in late February and March to talk about one of the *2022 Canada Reads* finalists. Each of us took responsibility to read and open conversation on one of the books in and then we shared our perspectives on that week’s book. Most of us, but not all, read all five books because of the quality of the works. We travelled across the country - from sea to sea to sea, stopping in Eastside Vancouver, Winnipeg and Scarborough and we visited locations outside Canada’s borders and across time, from early European settlement of North America to a tropical island in our time.

Whether or not we agreed that this year’s Canada Reads winner, *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good, was the “book to connect us,” I think that we were all glad to have connected with each other, talk books and be part of this annual celebration of the best of Canada’s contemporary literature.

For more information about *QWA’s Canada Reads 2023*, please, contact the Coordinator, Lynn Freeman (lynn.freeman@gmail.com or 613 544-9703).

*Lynn Freeman,
Coordinator, Canada Reads*

Events



In September, 2021, we had our first Membership Tea since Covid started. The University Club was chosen for the event. They arranged for us to have a large room and the food was well done. We had to get extra volunteers to check everyone in as per the Covid protocols. The turnout was better than expected. Everyone seemed to be glad to visit with friends.

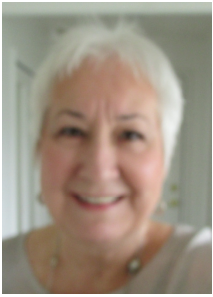
In November, the fall Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held and again we chose the University Club. Our guest speaker was Tricia Baldwin, Director of The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. She charmed us with her friendly personality. Her overview of the programs they offer and the challenges they overcame during Covid was really interesting. Many members commented on how much they enjoyed meeting her.

Finally in April we had our first spring AGM in two years. The search for a venue was tricky, since the University Club was closed temporarily. We found the Delta Hotel, which proved to be a good choice. The room overlooked the water. We opted for a buffet lunch which was a success. Our speaker was Megan Knott, Director of Tourism Kingston, who gave an informative talk on what programs they have in place and future projects.

Membership Tea

As Events Chair, I would like to start planning for the Membership Tea in September. I am looking for two to three volunteers to help me plan it and help out on the day. Input from our members will help make it a successful event. I would like to have our first meeting mid June at the house. If you are interested contact me: helen.grime@sympatico.ca, (613) 547-0733.

Helen Grime, Events Chair



Membership Report

The Executive of QWA anticipated a drop in membership during the pandemic as Interest Groups were unable to meet at the house or function as they did in the past. Members were naturally concerned about their health and that of others. The loyalty and enthusiasm of the large number (141) who renewed their memberships, despite the hardships, is appreciated. As restrictions ease, previous members will be contacted and invited to return. We were pleased to welcome three new members: Reine Dawe, Helen Jeronimus, and Margrit Sixel. We look forward to getting to know them in the various interest groups they join.

The By-Laws were changed to make university alumnae eligible for membership in QWA. As we go forward, the impact this has on our membership numbers will be of interest.

I would like to thank Cheryl Walker, who has been responsible as Membership Communications Coordinator, for sending QWA information to members during the past year. She has decided to take a well-deserved break from this task. Cheryl has been so generous in the time she has given to the activities of QWA and her skills will be greatly missed. Many thanks, also, to Susan Hara for her assistance with the database. I have really appreciated the support and patience of Susan and Cheryl.

***Elizabeth Jack,
Membership Chair***



House Management Report

We are very grateful to be able to open the QWA House to members to enjoy our new facilities!

Queen's has taken care in assisting us. In the past few months they have fixed several building issues. Squirrels and raccoons wanted to reside in the attic but they were removed and repairs made to the damage.

The eavestroughs were cleared of debris. Hand rails were installed at the front entrance and at the two steps on the deck to ensure safe passage for all members.

Handy Fairies Cleaners have been contracted to clean the House every 2nd Friday and are doing a great job. The cost of this is shared with RAQ who have an office, a meeting room and a bathroom on the second floor. These areas are for their use only. Please, be respectful.

The open sitting area on the second floor with the rose coloured settee and chair are QWA space. Those wishing to garden or support the garden can contact Jane Coffey.

The House Committee needs one more member. If anyone would like to join the House Committee or like more information about this please contact me,
maryellen.courtright@gmail.com

***Mary Ellen Courtright
House Management Chair***



Gardening at 187A

Gardening is happening at 187A. There are many perennials hidden on the property and after a clean-up we will discover more

growth. Our plan is to start slowly and provide an entrance with spring and fall flowers and flowering bushes. It is a very knowledgeable and keen group, there are plenty of our individual plants that will be transplanted. This will be a five year project on a net zero budget. Tools will be donated, Queen's will provide the soil and do a spring and fall cleanup. Our first donation will be a picnic table and wheelbarrow so we are off to a marvelous start. I am personally very pleased with the contribution and insights of the members who have volunteered their services.

Jane Coffey,

Coordinator, Gardening at 187A

Laneway

Last Fall, the Executive developed proposed solutions for widening the laneway to permit two-way traffic and possibly a few parking spaces. We are anxiously awaiting word and hope that Queen's will action it during the summer while we are closed.

In Memoriam

We note with sadness the passing of QWA Members.

Elizabeth Montgomery Ineke Wevers



Queen's QWA Bursaries

The QWA contributes to four bursaries at Queen's:

- ◆ Stephanie Deutsch Award
- ◆ Pauline Schubert Bursary
- ◆ Elizabeth Wallace Bursary
- ◆ Alice Corry Award.

In 2022, QWA contributed \$1000 to Queen's towards the endowments for these bursaries and for 2023 we have budgeted to contribute \$1500.

Each of these bursaries has a capital endowment and the Queen's Awards office determines the amount to be awarded and to whom.

The most recent information that I have is for 2020. The amount awarded for each bursary that year was between \$1000 and \$3000.

Valerie Colgan, Treasurer

Did You Know ...

The very first donation by the Faculty Women's Club was given to the local chapter of the I.O.D.E in 1940 to purchase newspapers and magazines for the German nationals and prisoners of war interred at Fort Henry.

A Bit O' History

"No lasting achievement is possible without a vision and no dream can become real without action and responsibility" - W.B. Yeats.

The Faculty Women's Club of Queen's (FWC) came into being on 14 January 1939 and immediately began to draw up a constitution. However, World War II was declared in September so the Club's emphasis became the local war effort.

From 1940 to 1946, members:

- manned the Red Cross Sewing Rooms, one day a week
- sold War Stamps at the Capitol and Tivoli Theatres
- participated in the War Services' Speakers' Committee
- worked at the Victory Club Canteen one day every three weeks
- joined the Soldiers' Entertainment Committee
- sponsored dances for British airmen stationed at Collins Bay
- knitted a total of 3,555 articles - scarves, gloves etc. for service personnel overseas
- formed an Emergency Committee to make all necessary arrangements for hosting British children being sent abroad to escape the intense bombing in England. In a matter of days, 28 members offered to take in children.

From "Faculty Women's Club - 1939-2000"

Thank You To Our President

A very special thank you goes to our president, Valerie Klassen. The last three years have been very challenging, given the pandemic and the move to 187A King St. Valerie has been unstinting in her attention to the interests of QWA and very generous with her time, especially in working out the agreements that were made with RAQ and Queen's related to the house at 187A King St. She has led us successfully through it all and we wish her all the best.

We look forward to the year ahead with our new Executive.

Executive Committee

2022-2023

President	Shelagh McDonald
Past President	Valerie Klassen
Vice President	Leesa Owram
Secretary	Mary Carlson
Treasurer	Helen Jeronimus

Chairs

Events	Helen Grime
Finance	Valerie Colgan
House Management	Mary Ellen Courtright
Interest Groups	Liz Harrison
Membership	Elizabeth Jack