



AWHsome

Newsletter of Advancement of Women Halton



Our Fall 2022 meeting

January 2023, Issue # 1 to start off 2023 with a bang!

AWH is a collaborative of twenty women's groups and social agencies that advocate and amplify the voice of women. The monthly meetings give us an opportunity to hear about the activities and challenges of member organizations. This, the inaugural edition of AWH newsletter, is another avenue for readers to learn about AWH member activities.

A Message from the Chair - Anne Douglas

AWH members started the first quarter of the 2022-23 year by attending the Dedication of Veronica Tyrrell Park on August 27th, in honour of one of AWH's founding members. Veronica established and led the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton for many years.

See: <https://vimeo.com/743901016/2ddba35944>

AWH members were urged to get involved and vote in the upcoming Municipal Election on October 24, 2022. This is where change can happen!

Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP) organised a walk on October 1 to stop the construction of Highway 413.

October saw the 30th anniversary of Women's History Month and we noted some of the many significant firsts by Canadian women. The Women's History Month Theme this year was, "She did; now I can" and that is certainly one of our themes.

Also in October a letter was sent to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding Southbridge Care Homes' application for a 30-year license renewal to build and operate Orchard Villa. Orchard Villa had the highest number of COVID deaths in 2022 and required the Military to intervene and the local hospital to manage the facility.

In November AWH supported "Ontario for All" in condemning the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 which would allow housing development in the Green Belt, remove flood protection and cancel development fees which have been used by municipalities to pay for infrastructure. We also contacted several Federal Ministers about the Canada Disability Benefit Act and wrote to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport regarding Hockey Canada's payments to sexual assault victims.

In December Burlington's Ubuntu hosted their annual excellent vigil promoting an end to violence against women.

Ancilla Ho-Young announced that the Equity and Diversity Roundtable will hire a new coordinator to replace Samina Zubairi, who is sadly mourned and much missed.

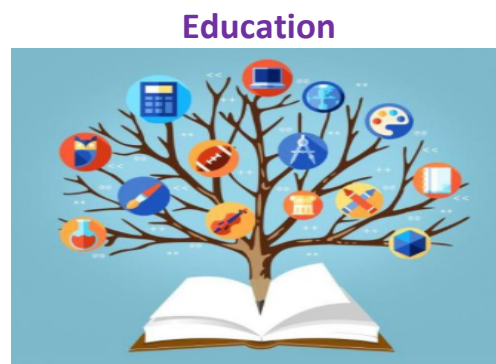
Looking ahead, AWH representatives are planning to meet in January with Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Karina Gould, to discuss next steps in making affordable and accessible childcare a permanent reality and other Federal issues.

Bev LeFrancois was delighted to share that Lisa LaFlamme will be the guest speaker for WHAM at the Dinner Party on International Women's Day, March 8.

In each quarterly issue of AWHsome we plan to have updates from the standing committees.



Chair Joey Edwardh, members: Maureen Weinberger, Bev LeFrancois, Bonnie Brown, Judy Rivard, Tina Agrell and Teri Shaw



Chair Peggy Russell, members: Jody Harbour, Judy Moore, Marianne Singh-Waraich



Chair Ann Douglas, Members: Chondrena Viera-Martin, Jody Harbour, Judy Rivard, Teri Shaw, Claudia Stewart, Ancilla Ho-Young, Pat Froio and Daniela Jansson.

We begin 2023 with a report from

Income Security



Chair Tina Agrell, Members: Joey Edwardh, Maureen Weinberger, Elka Enola, Gayle Kabbash, Peggy Russell, Teri Shaw, Angela Chavez, Gay Loveland.

So many Issues!

Disabilities Benefit. Bill C-22, the new Act, has been left deliberately vague, in order to get it passed quickly. The devil will be in the details when consultations are held to determine the regulations.

<https://rabble.ca/podcast/disability-justice-is-the-antithesis-of-capitalism/>

We sent a letter to the Minister of Disability Inclusion and the HUMA committee urging consultation with those with lived experience and the inclusion of supports for living with disability.

Guaranteed Income. An idea for a “Guaranteed Standard of Living”, will provide for things like appropriate transportation, clothing, food, medical expenses. On Rabble Radio, AWH member Doreen Nicoll spoke to Ron Hikel, a political scientist who has studied the economics of a guaranteed minimum income, about what it would actually take to make a basic income program work in Canada.

<https://rabble.ca/podcast/the-debate-continues-a-basic-income-in-canada/>

Child Care. Bill C-35 will make the new arrangement a binding one. Yay! Then Canada needs a strategy for ensuring staff are recruited, trained, and retained.

Income Security and Social Assistance reform

Find all the latest news and ideas at www.SocialCommons.ca

Leila Sarangi national coordinator of Campaign 2000’s talks about the effect of CERB clawbacks on mothers and also about how poverty is a systemic issue in Canada.

<https://rabble.ca/podcast/ending-child-and-family-poverty-during-covid-19/>

Although designed to improve housing availability, the **More Homes Built Faster** act will have unforeseen consequences for the green belt, the environment, and the independence of municipal governments.

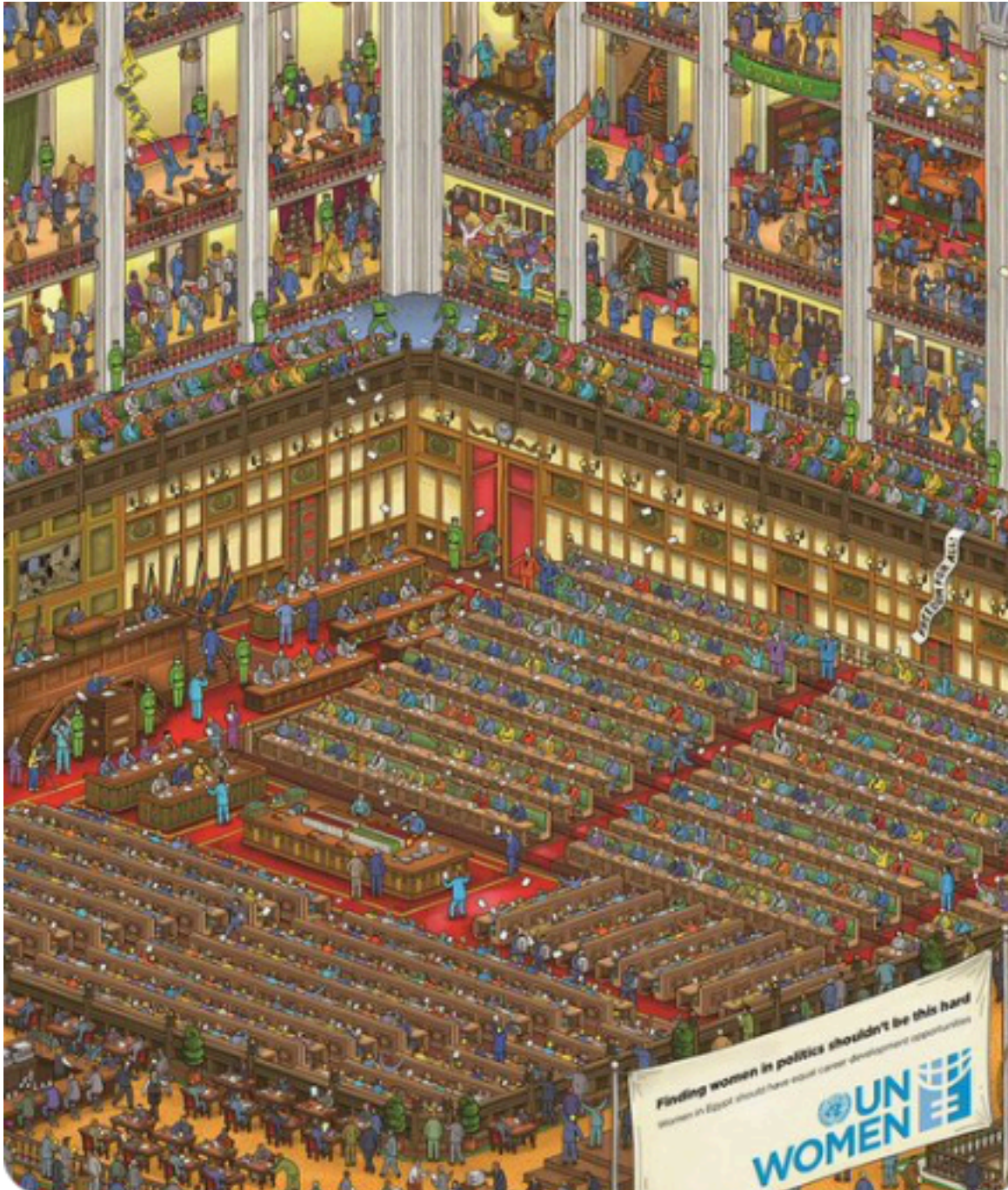
<https://rabble.ca/environment/ford-uses-bait-and-switch-to-sprawl-onto-farmland-and-greenbelt/>

Recession and Austerity. Jim Stanford of the Institute for Future Work and BC Centre for Policy Alternatives had discussed government's deliberate use of inflation and unemployment to keep wages low. In case you missed the event or want to view it again, CCPA posted [the recording for you to view.](#)

In 2023 we hope to host a series of **Citizens Assemblies**, involving members of the public to discuss these issues and generate some solutions. We are looking forward to an exciting new year, with many new ways of advocating

Watch out for Issue #2 of **AWHsome** in April 2023.





Finding women in politics shouldn't be this hard!