



AWHsome

Newsletter of Advancement of Women Halton

November 2024



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 newsletter is another avenue for readers to learn about AWH member activities.

A Message from the Chair

As I write this, it's hard to believe that November is here. The leaves are still colourful, red, yellow and oranges.

We've started the year with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. We've welcomed another new member, Lesley Sprague, Baha'i Community.

At our first Planning meeting, we added two more sub-committees, Ageing & Older Adults and Gender-Based Violence, to our current ones of Health and Democracy/Income Security.

Thanks to these committees we already have written letters on local housing, childcare and the Canada Disability Benefit. We've attended a stakeholder meeting on local housing and will be attending another a discussion group facilitated by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) on the rise of the right.

At the end of November, we will hold our own Democracy Café at Burlington Baptist Church on Nov.26th on *Deepening Democracy: A Chance to Speak about What are Canadian Values, and what is our role in safeguarding and protecting them?*

Concerning democracy, the next few months will be dramatic – 3 provincial elections have just been held. Would proportional representation have reflected what the actual results were? Another province has just called election - early, our own is threatening one – and of course the potential of a federal one. This is also being written before the American election and the tremors that will come with that.

“May we live in interesting times” – maybe not that interesting, eh!

Teri

October was Women's History Month



October marks Women's History Month, which is an opportunity to honour women in Canada, past and present, who have worked tirelessly to advance the rights of women and promote gender equality. Celebrating these trailblazers reminds us that we would not be where we are today without their work and inspires us to fight to advance gender equality in the present and future.

This year's theme, Women at Work: Economic Growth Past, Present, and Future, highlights how women have been challenging systemic barriers to their economic participation throughout history. Despite these barriers – and in many cases, by breaking them down – women have made significant contributions to Canada's economic growth.

Over the last 40 years, women's contributions to Canada's economy have accounted for about one third of the country's economic growth. This includes through our government's national affordable childcare program, which has empowered women and resulted in the highest level (85%) of workforce participation by women in Canada – ever.

**SENIORS
FOR
CLIMATE**



**NATIONAL
SENIORS DAY**
OCTOBER 1ST 2024

October began with a bang. Oct. 1 of each year is National Seniors Day, which coincides with the [United Nations International Day of Older Persons](#) (UNIDOP) and is an occasion for Canadians to celebrate the profound contributions of seniors in our homes, communities and workplaces.

On the 1st Many members of AWH attended a lively event in downtown Oakville hosted by GASP to mark National Seniors Day with Seniors for Climate Change. They heard a spirited land acknowledgement from Mary Smith of ???and from Louise Brownlee and Carole Holmes of GASP explaining the urgency of action on climate change. Mayor Rob Burton and Councillors Tom Adams , Sean O'Meara and Janet Haslett-Theale were there to show support. To the delight of younger passers-by, the Seniors rocked the Climate Song, with accompaniment from Pat McKee (guitar) Ron McKee (trumpet) Patty Wanless (drums) and singer Angie O'Drowsky, who came from Guelph with the sound system. Everyone sang and bopped along to a rousing chorus of "Do it now, now, now! " 11 seniors gave readings on why climate action was important, before the group marched along the main street to the Town Square. Here there was a call to action, opportunities to sign the Climate Pledge and a final lively rendition of the Climate Song.

Here is the YouTube link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KlsBZ6xGQM>



Fall Activities



CCAHA steelpan players & staff were onsite at Oakville's Civitan Farmers' Market on Saturday, Oct 5. Special thanks to the Civitan Club of Oakville for allowing the CCAHA to be a featured charity at the farmers' market. We had a wonderful time engaging with the community and sharing some sounds of steelpan!



On September 28, CCAHA was onsite for The Crossing Heritage Day at Knox Presbyterian Church Sixteen (Lions Valley Park) as part of Culture Days. Since the first Indigenous people lived on this land, the place known today as Lions Valley Park has been an important location because it was where the river could be crossed. It was also the site of the thriving community of Proudfoot's Hollow in the 1800s, a village that no longer exists. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about Indigenous history and culture in our region. No better way to celebrate Culture Days than by connecting with local history!

Gender Violence

Paddy Torsney, former Burlington MP and president of the inter parliamentary union, posted on Facebook, “Pleased to represent Inter-Parliamentary Union on a panel at UN Women on 25th September entitled "Promising practices to prevent online violence against women in public and political life". Wonderful experience and solutions shared by Julie Inman - Grant, and knowledge shared by Sarah H. Suki Capobianco-Meinell. The courage of women pursuing political careers despite really tough experiences was inspiring. An honour to share the discussion with Jaha Dukureh, Kunthida Rungruengkiat and Suyen Barahona Cuan. With thanks to Paulina Ibarra for wonderful moderation!”

Pam Damoff wrote:

Friday, October 4th was the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. On this day, we remembered and mourned the many First Nations, Inuit and Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who have been tragically taken from their families and communities, to ensure they are never forgotten.



Over the last year, I have worked with MP Leah Gazan alongside Indigenous women on the development of a Red Dress Alert. On this Day for Action for MMIWG, we reiterate our commitment to living up to our moral responsibilities as a country and all the Calls for Justice.

Grandmothers Voice



Jody Harbour is co-founder of Grandmother's Voice.

Jody Harbour wrote: On September 30th, Grandmother's Voice led and attended multiple ceremonies to honor Residential School Survivors and the children who never returned home. The day began with a Sunrise Ceremony in Hamilton, co-led by one of our sisters, Angela DiMontigny. As a Pipe Keeper, she shared a profound message: "We are the ambassadors of Peace."



Grandmother Drum at our afternoon ceremony at the Oakville Museum - restored by 101 Deweguns

We concluded the day at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts with incredible performances by Lacey Hill, Kristen McKay, Derek Miller, and James

Wilson. Nia Wen to everyone who joined us. Together, through Two Rows, we will heal and achieve reconciliation.



With National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day behind us, we must remind ourselves the journey toward reconciliation doesn't end after one day of reflection.

The [calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) (TRC) remain a critical roadmap for all of us, but the real work happens in our daily lives, in our communities, and in how we show up for one another.

The calls to action were designed to be a starting point — a guide for building relationships based on truth, justice and healing. They remind us that reconciliation is not just an Indigenous issue; it is a Canadian issue. Each of us, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, has a role in this work.

As we look toward the future, we must commit to walking this path together. It won't always be easy and there will be challenges along the way. But with commitment, openness and respect, we can create a space where healing is not only possible but inevitable. A space where Indigenous communities are empowered to lead, and where all Canadians can be part of a future rooted in justice, equity and mutual understanding.

Reconciliation is not a destination — it's a continuous process. And each of us has a responsibility to keep moving forward, to support one another, and to ensure that healing remains at the centre of this journey.



October 18 was Persons' Day

"Is the playing field really level now, as we're told?" writes bestselling author and award-winning journalist Elizabeth Renzetti, in her 2024 book ["What She Said: Conversations About Equality."](#)

"Really? When women make up half the population, but take up only 30 per cent of the seats in Canada's Parliament, and five per cent of CEO offices, when they make a fraction of the salary of male athletes.

"Really? When only one in 10 sexual assault cases reported to police results in a conviction? When domestic violence, which spiked during the pandemic, continues to increase and intensify? When three of the largest mass killings in modern Canadian history were tied to misogyny? When Indigenous women continue to experience violence at shockingly high rates?"

Renzetti was a guest speaker for a [Person's Day](#) breakfast for LEAF Sudbury. Person's Day marks the day in 1929 when Canada's highest court of appeal ruled to include women in the legal definition of "persons," which would lead the way to women's increased participation in political and public life.

It marks the day in 1929 when the historic decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal. This gave some women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women's increased participation in public and political life. Though this decision did not include all women, such as Indigenous women and women of Asian heritage and descent, it did mark critical progress in the advancement of gender equity in Canada.



Health Care



Trojan Horse at Jo Brant Hospital

On October 11 the wooden horse was being paraded through the area by way of the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) and the CUPE Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OHCU-CUPE), who joined forces earlier this month to embark on a cross-province Trojan Horse Ontario Tour to bring awareness and action to what they are calling the Ford government's privatization of health care.

Coming to Milton District Hospital and OTMH on November 8.

Council of Canadians



On Tuesday, October 22, Council of Canadians hosted a roundtable with movement activists and analysts to discuss how we build people power to take on corporate greed – so that the many can defeat the money. More than 800 joined this lively national conversation.

Our panelists laid out the urgent stakes of the moment we're living in, but they also powerfully reminded us that when we come together in struggle we can win.

Our speakers included: **Laura Walton**, current president of the Ontario Federation of Labour who oversaw an unprecedented mobilization by education workers in Ontario against Doug Ford; **Judy Rebick**, renowned social activist and writer, who gave us inspiration from previous periods of organizing; **Hussan Syed**, who has spent more than 15 years organizing for migrant rights; and **Martin Lukacs**, journalist and managing editor at the Breach, who has been tracking Pierre Poilievre's playbook. The discussion was moderated by **Anjali Appadurai**, a climate justice activist who is the current Director of Campaigns at the Climate Emergency Unit. The event concluded with remarks from our chairperson, **John Cartwright**.

Missed the event? [You can watch the full recording here](#) or on [Facebook](#).

And then there was Halloween



Watch out for AWHsome in December 2024

