

## CFUW Mississauga Notable Women 2019



Janis Alton



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# Canadian Federation of University Women

The **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN** was formed 100 years ago this year in Winnipeg. It was encouraged to do so by British and American Federations which had already come together on the heels of WW1. In Canada, there already were University Women's Clubs in major cities, the oldest of which was the University Women's Club of Toronto formed in 1903. Mississauga's Club came later in 1953.

The Working Committees of the new Federation were Education, Libraries, Vocations, Scholarship, Publications, and Recognition of the Standing Colleges and Universities. From the outset, there was a strong emphasis on providing scholarships for women High School Graduates and for those Graduates to obtain meaningful employment. Since then, women Graduates have come a long way forming some 60% of University enrolments.

To mark CFUW's 100th milestone, the National Office chose to honour 100 Notable Women from across the country who made exceptional contributions to their communities. Each received a Gold Pin presented at a special banquet at this year's AGM.

As its own celebration to observe CFUW's Birthday, **CFUW Mississauga** decided to stage a Community Banquet and to honour an additional six Notables. They are shown along with the four honoured by the National Office. Congratulations to all of them.

# Janis Alton

Born in Manitoba and raised and educated in Toronto, Janis was a public health nurse in Peel County for some 13 years. After marriage and with two youngsters in tow, Janis and her husband took a two-year breather to work in Kuala Lumpur in the late 60s: she as a volunteer nursing instructor and practitioner while her husband, a newly minted radiologist, served on the staff of the new University of Malaysia Hospital. Their little ones attended local schools.

On the family's return to Port Credit, Janis obtained a BA and MA in Political Science (International Relations) and channeled her volunteer work into social issues and the international peace movement, joining the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) in 1976. She remains its long-time co-chair and is a principle representative of the organization to the United Nations. For 43 years she worked as an activist and academic with VOW to advance the work of four World Conferences for Women. In 1995 she received a Roll of Honour Award for her UN activities. Added to Janis's many activities with VOW, in October 2014 she helped coordinate an international Round Table on the Delegitimization of War in The Hague, Netherlands.

In the early 80s Janis co-founded and chaired Peel Peacemakers. During this time she initiated and coordinated numerous local public peace education meetings at the Erindale Campus of U of T (now UTM) that featured well known disarmament speakers such as pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock.

Her peace commitments have been honoured at home and abroad. In 1997, for example, she received the Mark DeWolfe Award-UCSP for social justice and activism; in 2005 she was awarded the Member's Choice Award by the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc., and seven years later she received a World Citizenship in Action Award – Registry of World Citizens in Canada. In 2014 the City of Mississauga gave her a Civic Award of Recognition. A highlight of her career occurred in 2015 when she was one of 30 feminist women (including Gloria Steinem and two Nobel Laureates) invited from 15 countries to cross the demilitarized zone from North to South Korea to promote peace and reunification. This has inspired ongoing efforts to mobilize many more women. On behalf of women and girls everywhere she is currently involved with preparations for Beijing + 25 in 2020 by working with NGOs and governments.





# Gail Crawford

A native Nova Scotian, Gail graduated in 1955 from Dalhousie/University of King's College in Halifax with a B.A. in English and a Diploma in Journalism; later she added an MA in History from U of T. Her first job was with the radio division of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in Halifax and in Toronto where she was a Public Affairs producer. At the suggestion of a cousin, she joined the University Club of Toronto and learned that her future mother-in-law was a long-time Club member who held a luncheon at the Club House when she became engaged. She was married in 1962 and held her reception at the same location.



After marriage, Gail moved to North Toronto and transferred her membership to that Club. In 1998 she and her husband relocated to Mississauga and Gail joined the editorial department of the Ontario Crafts Council for four years. She began work on her first book, *A Fine Line: Studio Crafts in Ontario* and following that *Studio Ceramics in Canada*. After joining CFUW Mississauga in 1992, she first served as Program Convenor, a position she has held on and off over the decades. In 2008 she became Club Vice-President and President from 2009-2011. During this period she was instrumental in organizing and co-editing *Extraordinary Lives: Inspiring women of Peel*, a celebration of the accomplishments of 36 outstanding women trailblazers covering a 200-year period. Proceeds of sales were donated to the Scholarship Trust. Gail has been a long-standing member of Mississauga Club's Modern Books interest group which she currently chairs.

In 2012 she volunteered to join CFUW's writing team which was tasked with preparing 36 profiles of CFUW's past presidents, an extended project that also included editing and mentoring other writers. As the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary grew ever closer, Gail joined the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee in 2015 and the History Committee. This involved a nation-wide search for a writer/researcher to produce a celebratory history of CFUW and Gail chaired the selection jury. Throughout the book's preparation she provided editorial and technical advice.

Along with editorial work, in 2016 Gail joined CFUW's Library and Creative Arts committee which she now chairs. In 2018 she was part of CFUW's delegation to the United Nations to learn firsthand how we can be more effective on the world scene.

# Wendy Davies

A native of Montreal and graduate of McGill University, Wendy and her husband John moved to Mississauga in 1962 and while John's career took him away on international travel, Wendy gradually metamorphosed into a citizen advocate. Seldom has anyone devoted as much time and energy to her community's welfare as she has. To this day she cares deeply about education, taxes, museums, pollution, fiscal management and good municipal government. She has been asked to run federally for political office but prefers working at the municipal level because as she says "It is grass roots; you can advocate what is right without consideration of party lines."



One of her earliest projects was founding the Mississauga Association For Property Tax reform in 1985 to fight market value assessment, an initiative that kept property taxes from increasing for several years. In 1991 she was elected President of the University Women's Club (CFUW Mississauga) after serving as Publicity Convenor and Newsletter Editor, roles that demonstrated her gift for organization and efficiency. A few years later she was elected Peel District School Board Trustee for Ward 2, a job she held for six years and displayed incredible energy and dedication, setting the bar for effective citizen involvement in the education system. Over the years, she has served on a myriad of working committees among them the Clarkson Airshed Study Advisory. Since 1995 she has chaired the Petro Canada Public Liaison Committee (PLC), an environmental watchdog that monitors air and water quality in Mississauga South and East Oakville. She was also on the inaugural committee to "Stop the Gas-Fired Plant" and organized two effective public rallies attended by hundreds. The tactics worked.

On the cultural side, for a decade Wendy poured her energies into museum activities, first as Chair of the Bradley Museum Advisory Board and then first Chair of the amalgamated city museums – the Museums of Mississauga (MOMAC). Under her watch she initiated the first fund raisers for the Museums which also included the cost of moving and restoring the historic log cabin from Port Credit to the Bradley site. She also started and ran the first seven museum galas, classy fundraisers under the moniker Starlight and Candlelight.

Citizen activist Wendy thrives on community service; it is her life blood. In 2012 friends, colleagues and representatives of all levels of government honoured her achievements with a tribute dinner.

# Joyce Delves

Joyce reflects back over her life and quietly asserts “life is good.” During her career in the education field, along with extensive volunteer activities, Joyce has made life good for many others in Mississauga. A native of England, her earliest memories were of wartime and sleeping occasionally in the “war” box under the family table. Education was very important to her mother as it became for Joyce who seemed drawn to teaching. After completing high school, she attended Alsager College (University of Liverpool) and obtained a teaching certificate. Her first position was in London, and in time, she emigrated to Montreal where she was offered a position with the Protestant School Board of Montreal where her duties included teaching French. The use of tapes was her salvation. Now married, she relocated to Toronto where she began a rewarding and varied teaching career, initially in Special Education.



After staying home to raise her children she returned to teaching full-time with the Peel Board of Education. As well as the demands of her career and managing a busy household, she commenced part-time studies at UTM to obtain an undergraduate degree in English followed by a Masters degree in Education. As if this were not enough, she served as President of the Peel Women Teachers Association and Vice-President of the Educators Association of Peel where she was involved in contract negotiations and the resolving of contract disputes. When her term was up Joyce returned to the classroom, retiring in 1997.

Once Joyce had completed her university studies and with additional free time, she became an active volunteer. She joined CFUW Mississauga and served as Scholarship and Program Convenors and then two terms as President, 1999-2000 and 2006-2007. In addition to those commitments, she joined the Associates of UTM and when she became its President she organized a very successful series of spring and fall lectures to raise money to fund UTM scholarships. She also joined the newly formed Board of Bradley House. Subsequently, Bradley House amalgamated with Benares to become Friends of the Museums of Mississauga. Joyce eventually became President and under her guidance a successful series of a Friday evening concert series at Benares was launched. Donations from the concerts cover the costs of bussing Peel elementary students to workshops throughout the school year that depict the life and culture of Peel Region pioneers.



# Carol Hare

Carol was raised in Calgary and earned a BSc in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary. She married, taught in Calgary and Regina where she was the only female Chemistry teacher, and had two sons in Deep River. In 1976 the family relocated to the young community of Meadowvale. Carol began to meet new friends through Hazel McCallion's "Take a Break" program that provided babysitters to allow mothers to meet and share mutual interests and concerns. As a result, Carol became involved with the set-up of a co-op nursery school where she served as Treasurer, then President.



When her boys started school, Carol returned to teaching and stayed eight years at Central Peel Secondary School in Brampton and later at Lorne Park Secondary School where she was one of only a handful of Peel women teachers in Mathematics, Science or Computer Science. In 1989 the Hares moved to Ottawa. Having taken courses in teaching Computer Science she found employment in the Ottawa area high schools. When the family returned to Mississauga, Carol was rehired by the Peel District School Board to teach Math at Woodlands Secondary School where she became Head of the Math Department at the time of her retirement.

Carol's journey with CFUW Mississauga began in 1994. In 2002 with her experience in Math and Computer Programming, she assisted the Club Treasurer which led to a position on the Executive, becoming President in 2003-2004. In 2018 Carol co-chaired an initiative known as "Toonies for Toilets" which helped to build a 10-seat toilet building for female students in Ethiopia. She has also been involved in a "shoebox" program that provides personal items for women in local shelters at Christmas. For many years, she was a dedicated co-chair of CFUW Mississauga's Issues and Advocacy interest group.

Carol became interested in CFUW's national activities and joined its Finance Committee in 2009, becoming VP Finance for four years and Chair of the Charitable Trust for four years serving the Trust for a total of 11 years. From 2016-2019 she served as Assistant (Canada) Treasurer of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), now GWI. Intrigued by the difficulties women across the globe face daily, she attended her first IFUW Triennial General Assembly in Australia and has continued to attend them in Britain, Mexico, Turkey, South Africa and Switzerland.

# Susan Harris

A myth exists that if Susan can visualize it, she can make it happen. An energetic visionary, she is passionate about getting things done. After graduation from university she began her career at Lorne Park High School as a physical education instructor in the gymnastics field, a sport that was just burgeoning in Canada in the 1960s. Initially, Susan and a friend began a community club to train youngsters. By the late 1970s the Club members had reached 1,000 pupils demanding even larger facilities. Susan's answer to fund such a building was to persuade stakeholders to share the costs equally: the Ontario Government, the City of Mississauga and Gymnastics Mississauga. By April 1984 a 1,719 square metre state-of-the-art building (18,000 square feet) appeared in only two years – an unheard of accomplishment. For 25 years the space functioned as a world-class centre that brought renown to Mississauga.



Sports administration seemed to come naturally to Susan. For 14 years she directed Gymnastics Mississauga as well as preside over the provincial Gymnastics Federation, the Canadian Gymnastics Federation and the Mississauga Sports Council. Small wonder that in 1998 she was inducted into the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame. Along the way she also received a number of medals such as the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation of Canada Medal, the Queen Elizabeth 11 Golden Jubilee Medal, the Ontario Gymnastic Federation Special Achievement Award and Canada's Volunteer Administrator of the Year.

On the international front, Susan earned a reputation as an elite gymnastics judge. In the 1990s she travelled widely with officials and judges and carried the Mississauga banner to the Pan American Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships and an Olympics. She was the first female official in Canada to have judged gymnastics in all six continents.

Not sitting on her laurels, when Toronto and the GTA hosted the Pan-Am Games in 2015, she took on the job of Southern Ontario volunteer ambassador. She helped recruit 22,000 volunteers while she became VIP driver for top dignitaries. For many years a senior kayaker herself, she was a technical official for all canoe and kayak events held in Welland where the Canadian Women K4 won a gold medal.

The climax for Susan will be soon when she will be named to Mississauga's Walk of Fame.



# Fatmatta Kanu

A native of Sierra Leone, Fatmatta's career trajectory has included work as a teacher, library assistant/acquisitions agent, researcher, city councillor and diplomat's wife. Whatever country she found herself in Fatmatta contributed to her communities through volunteer service and participation in civil societies. As a city councillor in Sierra Leone, for example, she was responsible for municipal trade where she oversaw activities that affected thousands of citizens, mainly women and girls. She became involved in social welfare by providing people with support, counselling and rescue from difficult situations. She was also a facilitator for an adult women's literacy program and hosted radio and television broadcasts on Islamic Women's issues on behalf of the Federation of Muslim Women's Association. Through the Sierra Leone Association of University Women she continued to advocate for the education of girls. And on the political front, she was program coordinator for the Parliamentarian's Wives Association and assisted with its Day Care Building project. She belonged to the Community Organization for Rural Development which advances special programs in Lokomasana, Northern Sierra Leone. In the 90s in an effort to end the war in her homeland, she began lobbying with the Women's Peace Movement and Forum to secure peace and a return to democracy and civilian rule.



As a diplomat's wife she lived and travelled globally for 10 years -- Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg. For five years in the 1960s she and her graduate student husband lived in Edmonton. She holds a BA in History (Hon) from the University of Maryland and an MA in International Relations from Boston University. For her, English was a third language. Following the death of her husband she returned to Canada in 1999 and lived in Burnaby where she became involved with the Burnaby Multicultural Family Centre as a cross-cultural supervisor, helping immigrant families to adjust to life in Canada.

In 2001 Fatmatta received the UN International Year of Volunteers Award from the Canadian Government. The following year she relocated to Toronto and later to Mississauga, and in 2007 joined CFUW Mississauga where she has participated in its Issues and Advocacy interest group activities. In 2015 the Canadian International Black Women's Event included her in Canada's "100 Black Women to Watch" and in 2016 bestowed on her a Pioneer Award. She has authored three books and contributed to CFUW Mississauga's book *Extraordinary Lives: Inspiring Women of Peel* published in 2012.

# Betty Tugman

Betty Tugman has been a pioneer and visionary leader in CFUW at the local, provincial and national levels. Born in 1921 in Simcoe, Ontario, Betty attended Trinity College, U of T focussing on Fine Arts and English literature for which she proved to have a natural affinity. To help her overcome her innate shyness, she turned to a private tutor for lessons in speech and drama. Thinking she would become a high school English teacher, Betty enrolled at the Ontario College of Education because she realized she had much to offer: expertise in English, an aptitude for art history and finally, a fellowship in speech from Trinity College (FTCL) which she earned while at OCE. She married in 1952 and became a full time housewife and taught speech and communication in the evenings, an unusual career option at the time.



Through a friend she learned about the founding of CFUW Port Credit [later CFUW Mississauga] and joined immediately. It proved to be a good fit. For the next 25 years she held office and participated in a variety of Club activities. In 1979 she became President and attended CFUW and IFUW AGMs in Vancouver in 1980. She organized an after party for the Ontario delegates because although there was an Ontario Council, it lacked cohesion. She set out to fix that by promoting “gatherings” three times a year at the Toronto Clubhouse which centred on Legislation, Status of Women and Education, as they do today. Soon the Ontario delegates were dubbed as “The Upper Canada Mafia” because Ontario Council became a powerhouse. She maintains that building these grassroots connections was her greatest accomplishment.

From 1985 to 1988 as VP Ontario Betty joined the National executive and during this time she enjoyed the resolutions process and the visits to the federal government departments. “Each cabinet minister that we met knew who we were and the subject matter that we had come to talk about,” she recalls. “It was a wonderful exchange.”

In 2004, U of T presented her with its Arbor Award for volunteerism; in her case it was for her decades-long work as Trinity College graduating year representative. Betty was also President of the Erindale Associates when Erindale College (now UTM) first opened. Today, she attends regular CFUW meetings in Mississauga and Toronto and continues to find pleasure in her watercolour paintings. Betty has been awarded a Life Membership by CFUW Mississauga.

# Kathryn Wilkinson

Kathryn came to Canada from Great Britain and settled first in Ottawa and then Mississauga. A trained teacher, she was hired by the Peel Board of Education where she took a leading role in developing courses for teaching ESL students at Woodlands Secondary School. When her three children left home for university, she had more free time and joined CFUW Mississauga where she has been an active and influential member for more than 20 years. During that time she has served as President and co-chair of the Issues and Advocacy Group. With this group she initiated and helped with projects such as clothing drives and breakfast programs, the annual shoebox project and a toilet project in Ethiopia which provided privacy for adolescent girls at their local school. She also became involved with the Ontario Council meetings three times a year.



Beyond her Mississauga Club she has given countless hours of service to CFUW's National office by contributing significantly to three major undertakings: abolishing violence against women, early learning and childcare and Indigenous Peoples. She represented us nationally at the Advocacy Day for Childcare in Ottawa in 2018. In preparation for meeting with Members of Parliament, she collaborated with other groups advocating for a national childcare policy. She also led CFUW's National Board to establish Indigenous Peoples as a national undertaking and she chairs the recently established sub-committee. On four occasions she has been a delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) at the United Nations in New York.

Currently, Kathryn is CFUW's VP Education and acting President. As well, she chairs two committees: Education and Human Resources, sits on the Advocacy Steering Committee and is a trustee of the CFUW Charitable Trust. On the international level through Graduate Women International (GWI), Kathryn is involved with developing global projects and is a new member of GWI's Projects Committee.

In November this year Kathryn will travel to Longido, Tanzania, for the fourth time to teach in the PASS program (Primary and Secondary School Success.) This transformational program is hosted by a Canadian NGO and benefits from the participation of Canadian teachers who spend several weeks each year working with female students who have been recommended by the local district. The criteria is that they be promising students, need protection or need a boost before their secondary school entrance.



# Jo Ann Wilton

A Toronto native, Jo Ann graduated from U of T with a Bachelor of Physical and Health Education and a BA in Geography and started her career teaching both subjects at Lorne Park Secondary School. While on a sabbatical, she studied at the University of Natal in South Africa for a year and graduated with an Honours BA in Geography. After returning to Mississauga in 1971 she pursued a Masters in Geography at York University.

A life-long learner, Jo Ann then moved into the world of computers and while still teaching full-time she studied part-time at OISE, completing her Masters in Education in computer applications in 1981. With this background, unusual at the time, she took on the new position of Computer Consultant/Coordinator for the Peel Board of Education -- one of the first such positions created in the province. She continued her studies at U of T including some lecturing, and after a period of residency, she earned a Doctorate in Education in 1985. She considers it a privilege to have been right there in the very first years of computer use in schools, and to have been in a position to make a real difference at the local board and at the provincial levels. She ended her career as Supervisory Officer for the York Board of Education assigned with supervising Computer Education, Professional Development and Technical Services Department as well as having responsibilities for several elementary and secondary schools.

An avid outdoors person Jo Ann has taken up golf, hiking, lawn bowling and curling and once retired, she added watercolour painting. She now exhibits with the Lakeshore Art Trail and has done so for about 20 years.

She is a long-time member of CFUW Mississauga and while President in 1999-2000 she was approached by Erinview (formerly Erin Park Lodge) a senior's residence. It was looking for someone to run a book club for its residents. She researches what other book clubs are doing, reads the newspaper reviews, explores what CFUW Mississauga book clubs are reading. Once she has made her selection, books are sent in a bag to her home library by the "Book To Go" department at Central Library. She diverts the monthly honorarium to the Club's Scholarship Fund. A win win for everyone involved in this unique community service.

