



# Women's Canadian Club London

Since 1910



## Newsletter - Summer 2026

### President's Message:

Hello everyone! It has been a very busy transition time for your WCC London Board of Directors since our AGM and Board meeting on June 22, 2026. The meetings were held at the Royalcliffe Retirement Residence on Wharncliffe Road, thanks to our Venvi sponsor. It was a lovely facility in which to have our meeting, and they graciously provided us with a delicious continental breakfast. Sadly during the AGM meeting, we said goodbye to seven retiring Directors. I want to thank Irene Butler, Pat Hammerton, Nancy Hawkins, Andrea Paturel, Marie Peden, Leslie Smith and Vivien Stanfield for their excellent assistance and expertise during their time on the Board. Several of these women plan to continue on as Non-Board volunteers for which I am very grateful. Thanks to Sharon Miller, Nominations Chair, for her contributions to the new Board.



Although so many Directors have left, we still have a very experienced team of 14 Directors. I would like to acknowledge one new Director, Antoinette Dona, who is the new Social/Welcome Chair. Thank you Antoinette! Thank you to everyone else who has committed to the 2026-2027 Board. I will be introducing them all at our September 10 event.

Many thanks to Judy Farrell who will now be our Immediate Past President, for her leadership during the past two years.

I want to especially acknowledge Sharon Miller (a Past President) and her husband Bob who will be helping me set up and distribute the monthly newsletter to the membership. Thank you both.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer.

Barb Dmitrienko

# Upcoming - 2026-2027 Speaker Series:

**September 10, 2026**

Keynote Speaker: **Emma Donoghue**

"Shaping Stories for Stage, Page and Screen"

Women's Canadian Club London is very pleased to open our 2026-2027 Speaker series with a presentation by Emma Donoghue on September 10, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn and Conference Centre.

Emma Donoghue is a novelist, screenwriter and playwright. Her novel *Room* has sold almost three million copies, won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes. Emma scripted the film adaptation, which was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The *Wonder* was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and she co-wrote the screen adaptation of the Netflix film which starred Florence Pugh. *The Pull of the Stars* was nominated for the Trillium Book Award and Scotiabank Giller Prize. In 2025 she wrote the #1 National Bestseller, *The Paris Express*, a historical thriller. Emma's fiction ranges from the contemporary to the historical and includes two books for young readers.



Forest City Film Festival has just announced that Emma is the 2026 winner of the Impact Award.

Emma Donoghue turned a set of 19th-century immigrant love letters into a folk musical, *The Wind Coming Over the Sea*, at Blyth Festival in the summer of 2025 and she is the screenwriter for the film *H is for Hawk* in 2026.

NOTE: An independent book seller will be selling Emma's books from 1:00 to 2 p.m. and 3:30 to 4 p.m. in the Hotel Lobby.

SPECIAL NOTE: Best Western is providing a complimentary reception of desserts, coffee and tea following the presentation.

## **Moderator Questions:**

You let us know that you liked the moderator style of Q&A! Thank you for your feedback.

WCC London is happy to continue this type of Q&A session after the speaker presentation, with a Speaker Committee moderator asking questions of Emma. You are invited to write your questions at your tables and they will be collected by our volunteers for the moderator.

# Introducing Your 2026-2027 Board of Directors:



Directors absent when the above picture was taken



Cathy



Jean



Renny

**Photographer: Bernarda Norwood**

Thank you for the beautiful photos of the Board of Directors and Non-Board volunteers.

# **2026-2027 Board of Directors:**

## Officers of the Board

Barb Dmitrienko - President \_\_\_\_\_ [wcclدنpresident@gmail.com](mailto:wcclدنpresident@gmail.com)

Judy Farrell - Past President \_\_\_\_\_ [wcclدنsponsorshipchair@gmail.com](mailto:wcclدنsponsorshipchair@gmail.com)

Pat Skelton - Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ [wcctreasurer10@gmail.com](mailto:wcctreasurer10@gmail.com) (e transfers)

Sharon Miller - Speaker Chair \_\_\_\_\_ [wcclonden.speakerchair.officer@gmail.com](mailto:wcclonden.speakerchair.officer@gmail.com)

## Committee Chairs

Barb Dmitrienko - Archives

Betty Dietrich - Community Service

Barb Dmitrienko - Constitution/ONCA Committee

Pat Skelton - Finance Committee

Jean Parish - Goodwill

Eleanor Leatham - Membership \_\_\_ [wcclدنmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wcclدنmembership@gmail.com)

Judy Farrell - Nominations

Sharon Miller - Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ [wcclonden.speakerchair.officer@gmail.com](mailto:wcclonden.speakerchair.officer@gmail.com)

Wendy Valhoff - Silent Auction

Antoinette Dona - Social/Welcome

Sharon Miller - Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ [wcclonden.speakerchair.officer@gmail.com](mailto:wcclonden.speakerchair.officer@gmail.com)

Sharon Miller - Spring Luncheon, Coordinator, Registrar

Judy Farrell - Sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_ [wcclدنsponsorshipchair@gmail.com](mailto:wcclدنsponsorshipchair@gmail.com)

Pat Skelton - Technology/Online Media

Judy Farrell - Volunteer Coordinator

Cathy Leeming - Youth Focus

## Committee Members

Cathy Cave - Publicity, Speaker, Sponsorship, Youth Focus

Mary Randall - Constitution/ONCA, Speaker

Helena Steinmetz - Community Service, Membership, Silent Auction, Sponsorship, Technology/Online Media

Renny Thomson - Community Service, Speaker

## 2026-2027 Board and Non-Board Volunteers:

Volunteers, both Board and Non-Board, are the heart of our organization and have kept our club open since 1910. We are beginning our 117th year! On June 10, 2026, as Nominations Chair, I invited new Board and Non-Board volunteers, committee chairs and officers to a social/information get together at my home. We are very fortunate to have 5 new Non-Board volunteers, 6 former Board members as Non-Board volunteers and 1 new Board volunteer for the 2026-2027 series of events. Thank you to all for your generous donation of your time and efforts.

WCC London extends a special thank you to 7 Board Directors who have devoted many years of service, enthusiasm and knowledge to various committees. They are Irene Butler, Pat Hammerton, Nancy Hawkins, Andrea Paturel, Marie Peden, Leslie Smith and Vivien Stanfield who will serve as Non-Board members in 2026-2027, except Irene who is moving.

New Board Director: Thank you to Antoinette Dona for volunteering to be our Social/Welcome Committee Chair. Antoinette was the Welcome Chair on an earlier Board and we are very happy that she is returning.

New Non-Board Volunteers: Thank you to our new volunteers; Connie Cordes, Elizabeth Van Dongen and Diane Willis for volunteering on Community Service.

Thank you to Gigie McGlynn for volunteering on the Social/Welcome Committee.

Thank you to Lorraine Jardine for volunteering on the Social/Welcome Committee to welcome the New Members and help organize lunches for them.

Sharon Miller - Nominations Chair(2024-2026)



## **2026-2027 Membership Registration:**

Memberships may be purchased during the summer months.

Cost: \$125.00

Please go to [womenscanadianclublondon.com/membership](https://womenscanadianclublondon.com/membership) and follow instructions on how to register for membership.

Please remember to mail a self-addressed envelope to receive your membership prior to September's meeting.

Eleanor Leatham - Membership Chair

## **Community Service:**

### **"Making A Difference Together"**

The Community Service Committee hopes you are having a fun, and active summer. We have been busy planning for our upcoming year. We will be continuing to support our three core charities: The London Food Bank, The Byron Springbank Legion and My Sisters' Place. In addition we will continue to collect aluminum pop tabs for children involved with the Thames Valley Children's Centre who need mobility devices. In the upcoming year we will be attempting two targeted campaigns for the London Food Bank to address current shortages that they have. In September we will be holding a Back to School collection (see details below) and in March of 2027 we will be holding a Baby and Toddler campaign. The remaining months we collect for the Food Bank will be our general campaigns.

After much reflection and discussion we also will be attempting to expand our Community Service initiatives in the upcoming year. It is felt this will increase our awareness and further our knowledge of community needs. We will therefore attempt to support an additional different charity on a yearly basis. For this reason we created guidelines for consideration of an additional charity and these guidelines were recently passed at our Board meeting on June 22, 2026.

It was recommended and approved by our Board of Directors that this year we would support the London Public Library. This will be a Club Bicentennial project whereby we will attempt to collect 200 books or equivalent funds for the Book for Every Child campaign. This campaign will run concurrently with our other September, October and November campaigns as the majority of requests for books are received by the library at this time and it coincides nicely with our Bicentennial speaker in November. It is our hope that during the November meeting we shall reach our total goal of 200 books or equivalent funds.

## **A Book for Every Child Campaign:**

A Book for Every Child campaign is a London Public Library fundraising campaign which includes collecting new books or monetary donations for children who might otherwise not own a book. Poverty and low level literacy skills are closely linked and children raised in poverty often begin school with a lower vocabulary rate than children from middle class families.

This is a year round program which initially started in 1992. The program distributes books through schools and agencies servicing children and families. Last year requests were received for 7,368 books from 29 schools and 18 agencies.

This program promotes awareness of the importance of books in a child's life and also supports family literacy. This has a direct and lasting impact on children in our community.

What is our goal?

We would like to collect 200 books or funds equalling this for the London Bicentennial Celebration November 12th meeting.

How will our campaign work?

New books for children, preteen or teens can be brought to the Community Service Table at our September, October or November meetings. Current areas of shortfall the library has are books for children and youth aged 10 to 16. For ideas on books, you can visit the preteen/teen section at your local bookstore or visit the London Public Library teen collection web page.

As an alternative you can also contribute monetary donations to this campaign at our table. These donations help provide books for children with special needs, multilingual books etc. The library prefers to purchase these books themselves as these special requests vary from year to year. You are eligible for a tax receipt if you make a monetary donation.

So in summary, here's what we will be accepting at the Community Service table in September:

- **Aluminum pop tabs**
- **High nutrition back to school snacks i.e. fruit cups, applesauce, granola bars**
- **Crackers**
- **Breakfast cereals**
- **New books for children, preteens and teens**
- **Monetary funds for either the Food Bank or the Book for Every Child Campaign**

Thank you for considering supporting our campaigns. We look forward to another great year in supporting our London community.

Betty Dietrich - Community Service Chair

## Pop Tabs Collection:

We are still collecting for Logan Pennings, an 11 year old boy from St. Thomas with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. He is our 65th recipient.

Please contact Eleanor Leatham at [eleanorleatham@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorleatham@gmail.com) to arrange for pickup or delivery of your tabs until our September 10th 2026 opening event.

Logan Pennings is an 11 year old St. Thomas boy with Spinal Muscular Atrophy(SMA). He attends grade 6 at St. Thomas Christian School. He has an older brother and sister who attend the same school. His favourite school subject is math. He wants to play Para Ice Hockey in the future. Logan has an incredible sense of humour and loves a good joke! He also likes his I-Pad, board games, video games and TV. In the summer he also enjoys swimming. Because boys at this age are known to have growth spurts, Logan needs a larger manual wheel chair.

Logan will be our 65th recipient!

So, please save your pop tabs to help us reach this goal.

Eleanor Leatham - Community Service

