

## **Renate Sutherland**

A year ago Renate received a letter from the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), choosing her as one of a group of 100 Notable Women, to be honoured in August 2019 at their Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg. The CFUW organization was celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the city of its birth and on land that is the traditional territory of several indigenous groups.

What did Renate do to merit this honour? Her accomplishments are many. We at QPARSE have had the benefit of her administrative skills and leadership for quite some time. This award though, focuses on her accomplishments under the umbrella of CFUW.

Renate has been a member of the Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club, (MLUWC), a local group under CFUW, for the past 45 years (President 1986-88).

Her name was submitted as one of three candidates by this group. During this time she organized a wellness interest group with monthly speakers on such topics as reflexology, reiki, yoga, meditation, reflexology and anything else to do with health. For over ten years, Renate organized the Club's annual trip to the Stratford Festival and has also volunteered as Club archivist. In 2000 she set up the MLUWC Scholarship Fund and served as its first Chair.

One of Renate's first endeavors for the MLUWC was to become coordinator of public affairs. You will remember Bill 1 in the mid 1970's, the forerunner of Bill 101, which made French the official language of Quebec. The MLUWC prepared a brief in response to Bill 1 and Renate was a delegate to present this brief to then-Minister of Education, Camille Laurin. Her involvement with education was a powerful asset to the MLUWC, and another reason that contributed to her being honoured as a CFUW Notable Woman.

A surprise at Friday's "Celebration Banquet for the Notable Women" in Winnipeg, was the unexpected attendance of her son Ian, all the way from Halifax. It was a proud moment for Renate's husband, Graeme and son Ian.

Modest as ever, Renate claims she could not have done it without the opportunities and support given by her local University Women's Club and the numerous other associations with which she is affiliated, including QPARSE.

Renate serves on the boards of QPARSE, the Montreal Council of Women, the Zonta Club of Montreal and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations. She chaired the McGill Ecumenical Chaplaincy and serves on several committees of the United Church's Quebec



Region. From 1986-99 in conjunction with The Study School, where she taught for 13 years, Marianopolis and Vanier colleges, Renate organized a student exchange program with Hamburg, Germany. She and Graeme are avid travellers and in her spare time she helps friends and family with driving, medical appointments and visiting shut-ins.

Claudia Thierry