

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (CFUW) ORILLIA

CFUW Orillia members will be hearing from their guest speaker David Wilding-Davies about his fascinating story of farming from Zimbabwe to Canada. The monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd at Orillia Museum of Art and History, 30 Peter St. South, Orillia, at 7 p.m.

David Wilding-Davies was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He grew up on his parent's hobby farm where he developed a love of horses and farming. He represented Canada in an equestrian Three Day Event in the 1988 Olympics and the 1990 World Equestrian Games. David currently lives in Thornbury, Ontario where he runs his company, [Ashanti Coffee Enterprises](#).

In 1991, David Wilding-Davies took a break from training on the Canadian Olympic Equestrian Team to travel to Africa. There he found himself in the heart of the majestic Eastern Highlands region of Zimbabwe, where some of the world's best Arabica coffee beans are grown.

Many years later, with his young family in tow, he went back to Zimbabwe and bought a coffee farm where Ashanti Coffee Enterprises was born.

Life was good. They made friends and gradually nourished the neglected farm back to a productive state. In 2003, David won the Zimbabwe Coffee Grower of the Year Award for his efforts. That award not only represented the great coffee he was growing but also his commitment to providing good labour practices and good environmental practice.

But trouble soon brewed. As a result of President Mugabe's violent campaign of farm invasion, his land was expropriated, and they reluctantly moved back to Canada. Fortunately, David had partnered with other Zimbabwe coffee farmers who managed to keep their land, ensuring their exclusivity on Zimbabwe coffee in Canada and a steady supply of Ashanti Coffee.

Ashanti Coffee is unique in North America. It is "single-source, from farm to cup" – grown on partner farms, then roasted and distributed in Ontario and across the country.

Membership is offered to all women, regardless of educational background, who believe in our goals and value lifelong learning. For more information please visit <http://www.cfuworillia.org>.