



Club Focus

FALL 2015



Janet Brousseau
President
BPW Brampton

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President's Message Janet Brousseau

*W*elcome back BPW Brampton! Another Summer has come and gone and Fall is upon us. Part of our BPW mandate is to make changes for women on all levels of Government – Municipal, Provincial, National and International. We participate in creating and supporting Resolutions that will be brought forward, debated and voted on to ensure that we continue to seek the improvement of economic, political, employment and social conditions for women around the world. This year we had three delegates attend Provincial Conference in Alliston – Cynthia Warner, Wendy Humphreys and myself. Our Resolutions Chair Camilla Bignell is looking for volunteers, and more importantly, ideas on what Resolutions the Brampton Club can submit for the upcoming Provincial Conference being hosted by our very own BPW Brampton Club. Please contact Camilla to share your ideas and see how Resolutions are created.

Our District 3 Annual General Meeting is on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at La Scala Ristorante in Mississauga. I am looking forward to attending this meeting as your President and I do hope that some of you will be encouraged to join me at this meeting.

We are pleased to be back at Clinton's on Main for our Monthly Meetings and from what I have heard from our Dinner Convener Heidi Bryans, we have some very delicious meals to look forward to.

Angela McKinnon has a wonderful line up of speakers arranged which are listed on Page 6 of the Club Focus.

We had another successful Charity Golf Tournament in June, 2015. The date for our next Charity Golf Tournament is Wednesday, June 15th, 2016 (our Tournament has changed from a Thursday to a Wednesday to accommodate more participants). Our next Progressive Euchre Tournament will be held on Friday, November 13th, 2015 at the Scottish Centre with proceeds from this event to support St. Louise Outreach Centre and Foodbank.

Remember we have a 'Members Moments' feature in our Club Focus which is a forum to let members share personal and/or business triumphs with one another. Send your submissions to Sheila Walker for publication.

I am so honoured to serve as your President for this term! I believe I have very big shoes to fill and I know the entire Executive is available to help me guide you during our upcoming year. A very special Thank You to Past President Pat Dowling for her mentoring and guidance. I hope everyone has a wonderful Fall.



Special Events Pat Dowling

EUCHRE



Next up is our 17th Charity Progressive Euchre Event



on Friday, November 13, 2015 at the Glasgow Rangers Centre (Scottish Centre). We have tickets available now and as you know this event gets sold out quickly. We only have room for 84 players so please see Linda Barker for your tickets. This is open to guys and gals – anyone that loves to play euchre will have a great time. We need your re-gifts and donations for raffle and door prizes; we are here with open arms! Whatever you can give us, please bring to the October meeting or contact either Barb Hore or Pat Dowling to arrange for pick up.

We will also need help with food and will circulate a food list as usual. Please advise Camilla Bignell what you would like to donate. This is a wonderful event that helps our community and we ask that everyone contribute in some way to help us have another successful night.

The recipient of this event will be the Ste. Louise Outreach Centre of Peel Food Bank – especially right before Christmas.

Purchase tickets from Linda Barker at:

lbarker@talentcor.com

Tickets are \$20.00 each (with no refunds available).

Doors open at 6:30 pm

We start to play promptly at 7:30 pm

GOLF



On Thursday, June 11, 2015 we had our 20th Annual Charity Golf Event that was held at Caledon Golf Club. We had 92 golfers, 34 hole sponsors, an additional 14 dinners only and 6 trade table vendors. We had a great day of golf and lots of fun. It was a great evening and with our raffle prizes and live auctions, we

are pleased to announce that we raised \$7,530.00. In addition to this, Scotiabank presented an additional \$5,000.00 from their Bright Futures Program for a total of: \$12,530.00.

We also have booked our next year's tournament for Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at Caledon Golf Club. Registration forms will be available in early 2016.

Provincial Report Barb Hore

Just a reminder that our **District 3 Annual General Meeting will be held on October 25th, 2015 at La Scala Ristorante in Mississauga.**

District Director Sebanti Chadha is working very hard to prepare an interesting and fun meeting. Please try to attend. A flyer has been circulated with details for this event.

Our Provincial President Barbara Wetmore following a lengthy illness is planning to attend so be sure to come out and meet her if you haven't already done so and for those who know her, she would be very happy to visit with you.

Don't forget that plans are underway for **Provincial Conference 2016**. Co-Chairs Linda Barker and Pat Dowling are looking for volunteers. It is a big undertaking and we need all the help we can get. If you can give any amount of time to them, please let them know.



Membership Corner Linda Barker

I would like to welcome our two new members to BPW Brampton namely Julia Katsivo and Wendy Newman who joined our group and I had the pleasure of inducting with President Janet at our September meeting. It is always so interesting to learn about our new members and although we come from many walks of life, we all share the same interests and values that BPW offers. If you have not yet met Julia and Wendy, please take time to meet them at the next meeting.

Special thank you to our members who always help promote BPW and bring guests to our meetings and events so they can learn what BPW is about, and thanks to all of you for making our Club the great success it is.



Member's Moments to Share

Pat Dowling

Pat Dowling: This summer my husband Barry and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary in Bermuda. This is where he bought my engagement ring 21 ½ years ago! Time certainly flies when you are having fun!!



Julia Katsivo: On Saturday, September 26th 2015, my first personal development conference for professionals came to pass.

It was a long arduous road to the end product, the inaugural of many more under my organization, Julia Katsivo, and I was excited by the calibre of speakers, facilitators, sponsors and participants that helped make this a great event.

I learned a lot about the business I'm in and most importantly, about me. This is one of the highlights of 2015 and I look forward to many more.

On a Personal Note

Pat Dowling

Olga Gil: *Memorial details for Olga will be advised to members as soon as the family has made arrangements.*

Louise Scлизizzi: *Best wishes for a speedy recovery from her recent surgery from all of us and hope to see you attend some meetings in the New Year!*

Cynthia Warner: *Congratulations on her new position in Port Carling. We will miss her but know that she and her husband, Raymond, have fulfilled a lifelong goal to work and retire in a northern community.*

Programs

Linda Barker

Please review the **Dates to Remember** list of details on Page 6 of the Club Focus to mark your calendars for upcoming events and meetings.

Focus on a Member:

Grettel Comas Linda Barker

Originally from Costa Rica, where the weather, people and coffee merge perfectly. For about a decade, I decided to visit Canada with some friends without knowing that the decision would bring a



new family into my life, a courageous husband (Michael) and an adorable daughter (Stephanie)!

Just a few things to mention that I like to do in my spare time: I love going to spinning classes, walking my dog, shopping, my favorite date is having a coffee in a nice bistro with my daughter, family and friends.

I studied Journalism, and then I worked in TV and Radio which were my preferences. In Canada, I am the Store Manager at M. Michael's Photography and Baci Gifts. As I always say, "Welcome to the photographic studio with a cute boutique inside!"

Our family business is located in the historic Downtown Brampton with an outstanding classical and contemporary style in Wedding Photography, Family Portraits, Communion and Business Portraits. I would like to mention that in this last category, we have photographed amazing group of women from BPW Brampton: Amrit Kaur, Donna Sauve, Karen Armstrong, Linda Ford, Carol Kollar and Pat Dowling.

Part of our complimentary business is Baci Gifts, when buying our fashion accessories, gifts and baskets, we always look for beautiful and unique items from different places in Canada and around the world. All items are beautifully presented and wrapped. The little touches of elegance combined with exceptional customer service is part of our mission.

To make my business activities even more interesting, I'm now the Art Manager of The Arts of John Cutruzzola. I would be delighted to bring you to his Studio and chat with Mr. Cutruzzola, the artist. You will be able to see him personally along with his amazing work. If you are interested in acquiring any pieces from his collection, I'll definitely help you out with that. Please visit us online at www.theartsofjohncutruzzola.com.

Thank you in advance for your time to read a little piece about me and my activities. I hope to see you promptly in our store! May all who enter as guests, leave as friends!!

Grettel Comas | Store Manager
37 Queen St. West, Downtown Brampton, ON L6Y 1L9
905.457.3660

Focus on a Member:

Janet Brousseau Linda Barker

I would like to introduce myself. I am Janet Brousseau, Vice-President of Total Traffic Services Inc, a family business which my Dad started. We are a construction company who installs and removes the Pavement Marking Lines you see on the roads. As my Dad is retired, my brother Pierre and I now run the company. I only have the one sibling, which is plenty. I have a wonderful niece (27) and a nephew (25). They both are working part time in the business with us. My significant other, Bob also helps out in the business.

I moved to Bramalea back in 1967 to the "D" section and I still live in Bramalea but in the "E" section.

I spend most of my summers on the waters of Georgian Bay and winters as well, swimming, skiing, fishing, boating and snowmobiling. When my Dear Mom passed away 3 years ago, my Dad started spending more and more time at their house in Midland, so in March his Brampton house was sold and he is now a full time resident of Midland, where you will find me almost every weekend and holidays. If I am not puttering in the garden or out on the bay, you can usually find me out on my John Deere Tractor cutting the grass. I also have a bit of a passion for cooking when time allows.

I was invited to come to a BPW meeting by Cynthia Warner about 4 years ago. BPW is an amazing organization with very strong ties to help women less fortunate and take resolutions to government to attempt to affect. I feel very honoured that I have been asked to become the Club President for the coming year. With the amazing guidance of Pat Dowling, Barb Hore and the amazing executive, I hope that I can fulfill the shoes of our Past President Pat Dowling.



Focus on a Member:

Wendy Newman Linda Barker

Wendy has built a career at

TD Canada Trust for the past 21 years. Over that time Wendy has applied her skills from Branch Management to process efficiencies. As a valued member of the corporation, Wendy has been deployed to work internationally, specifically in New Delhi, India. The Corporation has given Wendy the opportunity to volunteer in several community and charity events including Tree Planting, Shoreline Clean Up, JDRF Rides, Ontario Senior Games and local food banks.

Currently Wendy works at the Mississauga Creekside Corporate campus working on numerous corporate assignments and special projects.

Wendy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from Western University.

Wendy was born and raised in London, Ontario and moved to Brampton after graduating from Western some years ago. Wendy enjoys being active in a variety of sports. Growing up she was a competitive synchronized swimmer and spent many hours in the pool. Wendy lists amongst her favourite activities, curling, golf, snowboarding, surfing and ultimate frisbee. Most recently Wendy crossed off a lifelong goal which was to hike the Inca Trail and explore Machu Picchu in Peru. She is a season ticket holder for the Toronto Football Club and proud fan for all levels soccer.

Wendy has been happily married for 23 years and has a wonderful daughter who just started Kinesiology at Brock University this September.



BPW Resolutions

Camilla Bignell

Camilla would like to address the following with our membership participation:

Are you interested in affecting change in our laws? Camilla needs your help! If one of these three (or all of them) resonate with you, please connect with Camilla to inform her of your interest.

1. Are you interested in being on the Resolutions Committee?
2. Deadline for submitting our Resolutions is February 1, 2016. Is there something about our laws or system that really bugs you? Let's do something about it!
3. Please make an effort to come out to the BPW Brampton Resolutions meetings in April & May; if you don't, I might take it personally. Look forward to hearing from you.



Wendy Newman

**Sr. Business Analyst | Transition Management
Business Solutions & Support Group
TD Operations: Banking, Credit and Collections
Services TD Canada Trust
wendy.newman@td.com
(905) 214-1116**



BPW International Snigdha Malik



Who is Abiodun Obakin?



Abiodun Obakin, BPW Abuja is the MD/CEO of Biobak Kitchen and Ventures, Abuja, Nigeria. Her story is indeed a grass to grace one and she is a source of inspiration to the thousands of lives her business and her person have touched.

Abiodun trained as a Laboratory Scientist (AIMLT in Haematology and Blood Transfusion; FIMLT in Microbiology; MSc in Haematology) and worked for 23 years at the University Teaching Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Her passion for cooking and an all consuming dream of running a restaurant led her to resign from her hospital job to start a small catering outfit which she operated from her home. Her orders hardly exceeded 10 but she kept on giving the best of African dishes to her clients. This was in 1996.

Her breakthrough came in 2003, when she, along with a host of others, won the bid to cater at the All Africa Games (COJA) held in Nigeria that year. Her dishes got rave reviews and this brought her business into the limelight. She decided to take a loan from the bank to set up a small road side eatery which she paid back with a lot of difficulty. Due to land use regulations in Abuja, the capital city, her little restaurant was demolished. Undeterred, Abiodun proceeded to move her business to a more upmarket location. Her vision and tenacity drove her to carry on in business to sustain herself, her family and the community that depended on her. Her business sense eventually paid off; her turnover has risen from \$200,000 dollars (two hundred thousand US dollars) to over \$10 million US dollars a year.

In 2009, she was awarded the Best Restaurant in Abuja. In 2010, she was among the 50 leading business women that President Goodluck Jonathan honoured in Nigeria. The same year, she was also one of the country's representatives at the World Food Expo in USA.

Her business, Biobak Kitchen, has food outreaches to widows, orphanages and the business is also heavily committed to supporting grassroot clubs that support women and children. Abiodun Obakin is a mentor to many women, especially those within the hospitality business.

Community Partner Update

Pat Dowling

Victim Services of Peel

Victim Services of Peel (VSOP) is a not-for-profit charitable

organization that provides around-the-clock immediate assistance to people who have been victimized by crime or tragic circumstance across Brampton and Mississauga.

VSOP works in partnership with Peel Regional Police and other community agencies to provide immediate crisis intervention, advocacy, counselling, and resources to people who have suffered traumatic events.

VSOP offers a wide variety of programs and services to victims living in the Region of Peel. Through their Transitional Housing Support Program they help women in abusive relationships transition to a life that is independent of their abusers and free from violence.

VSOP's South Asian Family Enrichment Program provides culturally appropriate services that assist women, men and youth from the South Asian community in Peel eliminate violence within their families.

Jessica Mills was in attendance at our September 15th Business Meeting to accept a cheque in the amount of \$2,000.00 on behalf of the organization. VSOP is grateful for BPW Brampton's support and leadership in the community.

For more information about VSOP, please visit www.vspeel.org or contact Jessica Mills, Fundraising Development and Communications Coordinator at jessica@vspeel.org or 905-453-2121 ext. 7651.



Humane Society

The Human Society is always in need of old towels, bed sheets, blankets, etc. used for the comfort of cats and dogs in their care. Please drop off donations of these items to the following Brampton location:

**475 Chrysler Drive, Brampton, ON L6S 6G3
(Williams Pkwy East & Chrysler Drive)
(905) 458-5800**



BPW Brampton
10 George Street North
Suite 154
Brampton, ON
L6X 1R2

Phone
Pat Dowling
(905) 789-8198 ext 203

Email
info@bpwbrampton.com

Website
www.bpwbrampton.com

Women Working for Women



190 Main Street South,
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BPW Brampton THANKS

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for their ongoing support of
accepting our Club's mail.
For more information on
what services they provide,
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Your 2015-2016 Executive

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Immediate Past President **Pat Dowling**
First Vice President **Angela McKinnon**
Treasurer **Wendy Humphreys**
Recording Secretary **Barb Hore**
Corresponding Secretary **Karen Armstrong**
Membership **Linda Barker**
Programs **Angela McKinnon**
Publicity & Public Relations **Sheila Walker**
Special Events **Pat Dowling**
Resolutions **Camilla Bignell**
Fellowship & Historian **Paddy Silverthorne**
Dinner Convener **Heidi Bryans**
Club Focus Designer/Publisher **Sheila Walker**
Website Manager **Donna Sauve**



The Business and Professional Women's Club of
Brampton is an equality-seeking group toward
the improvement of economic, employment
and social conditions affecting women.

2015-2016 Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Speakers: Update from our Community Partners
Topic: Each partner will report on what they
have done with the money raised by BPW
Brampton and donated to them.

OCTOBER 20

Speaker: MPP Harinder Malhi
Topic: Got Questions? MPP Malhi has the
answers concerning women's issues in Ontario
as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister
responsible for Women's Issues.

NOVEMBER 13

17th Progressive Charity Euchre Event, The
Scottish Centre (AKA Glasgow Rangers
Supporters Club Bramalea), 185 Advance Blvd.,
Unit 2, Brampton L6T 4H9 905.458.7718

NOVEMBER 17

Motivational Speaker: Sandra Dawes
Topic: Are you missing the key to achieving
your goals? Sandra has it! The 5 keys to
making your goals a reality.

DECEMBER 8

Christmas Social & Secret Santa

JANUARY 19, 2016

Speaker: Dr. Oksana Sawiak
Topic: Is your mouth trying to tell you
something? How Dentistry affects your health.

FEBRUARY 16

Speaker: Lopida Banerjee
Topic: To Be Confirmed
Celebrating BPW International Night &
Candle Lighting Ceremony.
Women for Afghanistan handmade items
available for purchase.

MARCH 4

18th Progressive Charity Euchre Event,
The Scottish Centre (AKA Glasgow Rangers
Supporters Club Bramalea), 185 Advance Blvd.,
Unit 2, Brampton L6T 4H9 905.458.7718

MARCH 15

Speaker: Linda Ford
Topic: Breaking barriers, Linda shares her
secrets to success.

APRIL 19

Speaker: Camilla Bignell
Topic: Help shape issues relevant to women in
society. Resolutions with Camilla and her Team.

MAY 17

Topic: Help keep our organization strong.
Annual General Meeting & Elections.

MAY 27-29

Provincial Conference
BPW Brampton Hosting
Holiday Inn Toronto Airport East

JUNE 15

21st Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Caledon Golf Club

JUNE 21

BPW Brampton Social
Details To Be Confirmed

JULY 12

2016-2017 Programs Meeting



BPW Brampton Club Focus



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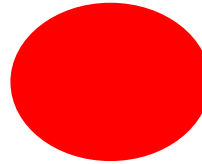
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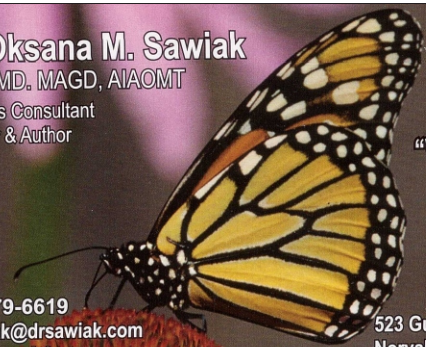
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