



The Business and Professional
Women's Club of Brampton

Club Focus



FALL 2020



Lynne Taylor
President
BPW Brampton

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President's Message Lynne Taylor

First and foremost, welcome back! It's been a very long and stressful time since we all sat in the same room together, way back in February, but I hope that this message finds you all safe, healthy and managing the new norms that COVID has placed upon us.

I struggled with how to begin my first message as President of BPW Brampton, in an unprecedented time for the world and for our 74-year-old club, but despite that, I want to start off by acknowledging that we remain the largest club in Ontario with 40 members. Nothing could be more encouraging for a new President and Executive to have such a great membership renewal at such a difficult time, however, I also believe it's because we were left a great platform by our Past President, Indira Persaud to step onto. And I would be remiss to not acknowledge the Executive members (both past and current) that have been an integral part of our club's development and current status with their continued contribution, ongoing support and mentorship.

Over the summer, members of the Executive met to discuss various matters, such as moving forward on a virtual basis, the future of fundraising initiatives, finalizing BPW Brampton's Resolution being presented at the 2020 Provincial Conference and reaching out and maintaining contact with our current community partners to assess and understand their needs and assist wherever possible, during these extenuating circumstances.

We were also busy planning programs for the remainder of the 2020/2021 year, which I'm pleased to say is looking very good. Indira will speak to programs in her report that follows.

Our first General Meeting of 2020/2021 will be held on Tuesday, October 20th via Zoom with Guest Speaker Peel Regional Police Constable Joy Brown, which promises to be an interesting and engaging event. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to participate. Please look for an email and calendar invite with the Zoom link and login details for this meeting.

In closing, I want to set out that the vision for BPW Brampton moving forward remains fluid and flexible. We are at a point where as a club, we may need to embrace things that are not familiar and/or comfortable for all of us (i.e. Zoom meetings), there will be a learning curve and some traditions that may take on a different look or not be able to take place in our current environment, such as our Golf and Euchre fundraising events. However, as a club, this is where we march on with innovation, tenacity, open mindedness and forward thinking. I look forward to working with the rest of the Executive and with the support and co-operation of all our members in leading the club through these uncharted waters.

"I like to think of life as an adventure, like a roller coaster. It helps with the ups and downs." – Fred Rogers



Special Events Pat Dowling



We were looking forward to our progressive euchre event that was to be held on November 13, 2021, however, due to COVID-19, this event has been postponed.

We have booked Friday, March 5, 2021 as the next date for our euchre night and we hope that we are in a much better circumstance to be able to host this sold-out event once again.

GOLF

Our annual charity golf tournament has been booked for Wednesday, June 9, 2021 to be held at Caledon Golf Club.



Stay safe and well and see you soon!



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.

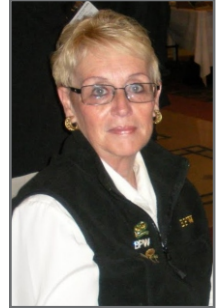
Please drop off donations of these items to the following Brampton location:

475 Chrysler Drive
Brampton, ON L6S 6G3
(905) 458-5800



BPW Provincial Report

Barb Hore



Congratulations to our three Delegates and to our Resolution Committee for their outstanding presentation at Conference which led to our Resolution being voted on and passed which will now proceed to the brief stage and then on to the relevant government minister.

There were fifty members registered for Conference which was great in view of the fact that it was virtual. Apparently, it ran well with only a few small technology glitches.

The new Ontario Board was elected as follows:

- President - **Heather Ellis**
- Past President - **Linda Rice**
- Secretary - **Anne Harvey**
- Treasurer - **Kimberley Rowntree**
- Vice President Membership - **Sharon Doran**
- Vice President Young BPW - **Faith Rowntree**

The club with the largest percentage growth this year was our Niagara Falls Club. Congratulations to the club. They work very hard and like ourselves try to give back to the women in their community as much as they can. They have also been very active with some of the BPW workshops.

There were some changes made in the financials to adequately address expenses that have been reduced due to COVID-19.

Congratulations to our **Zainab Williams** for her Leadership Award.

Congratulations also to our four 10 year Members as follows:

- Nelia De Sousa**
- Wendy Humphreys**
- Indira Persaud**

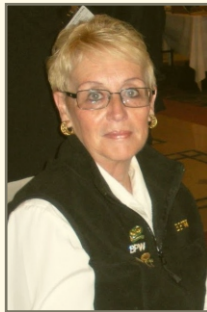
All things considered, it was a very successful conference and we are all looking forward to next year's event and hope that we can enjoy the Nottawasaga Inn as the venue for the 2021 Provincial Conference hosted by the Barrie club.



BPW Membership Corner Barb Hore

A very warm welcome to three new Members who will be inducted at our upcoming October 20th meeting.

**Cynthia Coon
Sheron P. Latbeaudiere
Nataliia Soroka**



Many thanks to our members who have brought these ladies to our club. Encourage your friends, family or neighbours whom you think would benefit from being a BPW Brampton member.

We also have some very interesting ladies who are on our "Prospect" list at the moment waiting to attend our October 20th General Meeting to make a decision on joining us.

Our current membership is at 40 Members with the next closest club to us at 21 members.

See you all in October.

BPW Programs

Indira Persaud

It is a pleasure to serve as your Programs Chair for this year 2020-2021.

We have pivoted to a Zoom format for the time being due to COVID-19 and hoping we can all meet again in person at Vesuvio's Ristorante in January 2021.

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



BPW Brampton Resolutions

Alexandra Hopkins

BPW Brampton Resolutions Committee has never

stopped in our dedication to pushing forward on our advocacy work! Lynne Taylor and Indira Persaud set the standard in what Resolutions mean to Brampton and I am eager to continue on this path as Chair of this hardworking Committee. Much like with everything else, COVID-19 has caused us to all pause and re-evaluate how to continue forward with Resolutions in this new climate (political and community need).

We are proud of the Resolution that has been approved and submitted to BPW Ontario for voting at Conference, set for September 19, 2020. We have welcomed very positive feedback from various clubs across Ontario, and look forward to supporting BPW Ontario in their advocacy to Queen's Park, and our local advocacy to City Council.

As our next step, we will work in collaboration with BPW Ontario's Resolutions Committee to support all approved provincial Resolutions. We also look to establish a plan to advocate for support from Brampton City Council. We excitedly look to establish new partnerships in our community to expand the BPW Brampton impact and reputation.

Our Committee continues to meet virtually and welcomes new members to join us. Every member of our Resolutions Committee has a unique perspective on issues and it is through this diverse experience that we are able to continue crafting ideas to continue ahead.



BPW Member Feature

Nataliia Soroka Indira Persaud



s. Nataliia Soroka has recently moved to Canada from Dubai, the United Arab Emirates where she

spent 6.5 years. She currently works in the Immigration Consultancy Firm.

Nataliia is 29 years old. In 2013 she graduated with first class honours from Odessa National University, Ukraine obtaining a Master's Degree in International Relations and Political Sciences. Coming from this background her passion is to serve



the community and to promote goodwill and peace. Ukrainian by origin, Nataliia speaks six languages: Ukrainian, Arabic, English, Japanese, Turkish and Russian. She is a citizen of the world.

She started her career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the United Nations. After moving to Dubai, she pursued her work experience with giants like Emirates Airlines and Majid Al Futtaim Properties (40,000+ employees companies) in a capacity of an Executive Assistant to the CEO. Later working for the Association of Rotary Clubs UAE as an Executive Secretary, handling four local clubs in Dubai.

Apart from BPW, Nataliia is actively involved with the Rotary Club of Toronto (she has been part of Rotary for the past nine years), and Soroptimist International of Toronto, movement that works towards equality, education and empowerment of women and girls. Some of her professional interests include diplomatic protocol, Nataliia is a member of the Protocol Officers Association, as well as, passionate about humanitarian services, women empowerment and work with refugees.

Her hobbies include golf, equestrian sport, cooking and travelling. Nataliia has been to more than thirty countries so far. She is also fond of martial arts and has nine brown belts in Taekwon-do.

World Food Day
Friday, October 16, 2020

Indira Persaud



his year's World Food Day marks the 75th Anniversary. World

Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. One of the most celebrated day in the United Nations calendar. It's an annual celebration in the honour of the Food and Agriculture Organization launched by the United Nations in 1945. It is one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals - # Zero Hunger. Zero Hunger is based on three dimensions economic, social and environmental. Zero Hunger aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

As countries deal with the widespread effects of COVID-19 pandemic, WFD 2020 highlights how food and agriculture are an essential part of COVID-19 response. It calls on all countries to build better food systems more resilient and robust so they can withstand volatility, climate shocks and deliver sustainable food for all and decent livelihoods for food workers.

On this day, we must celebrate the efforts of all people who produce, plant, harvest, fish and transport our food.

The COVID-19 global health crisis has been a time to reflect on things we truly cherish our basic needs. These uncertain times have made many of us appreciate things we take for granted and many without FOOD.

BPW Brampton is raising the awareness on Food insecurity by highlighting the great work Ste. Louise Food Bank does in our community.

BPW Brampton is challenging all clubs in Ontario to mobilize with their local food bank on Friday, October 16, 2021 to raise local awareness of food insecurity and answer the basic call to humanity everyone should have access to FOOD.



BPW Member Moments Lynne Taylor

Alexandra Hopkins On September 19th, 2020, Alexandra Hopkins, Resolutions Committee Chair presented BPW Brampton's resolution, Expansion of Funding to Increase Options for Women who are Victims of Violence to Live Safely in Their Community, at the BPW Ontario 2020 Conference for approval and received 100% of the votes present and without any amendments. Well done Alex!



Zainab Williams On September 25, 2020 our Young BPW Brampton member, Zainab Williams graced the cover of FORUM Magazine, a leading Canadian financial advisor publication and featured in an article about the barriers faced by women of colour in the financial advisor industry and the need and ability that this business sector has to become more diverse and inclusive. Congratulations Zainab!

Marilena Crupi Congratulations to Marilena Crupi and her fiancé, who will be tying the knot on Saturday, October 24th, 2020. Wishing you both health, happiness and longevity in your marriage!

Linda Ford Access Career Solutions is celebrating 20 years in business. Founded in August 2000 by long term BPW Member Linda Ford. They have assisted thousands of companies and candidates – matching their best candidates with great customers. Access is proudly committed to giving back to the communities we live and work in. We continue to support our community partners. We are excited about continuing the journey and making a difference in so many lives.



Grettel Comas It's a pleasure to share a Downtown Brampton Gallery and NEW LOOK!! Baci Gifts offers an added bonus for art lovers everywhere – a bonus that will soon see an expansion of our premises as we assume the rights to the space adjacent to Baci Gifts as part of our commitment to exclusively share The Arts of John Cutruzzola. For a number of years, John and Grettel have shared a passion for fine art, with Baci Gifts showcasing the wonderful artwork of Mr. Cutruzzola. While his work has always been on display at Baci Gifts, an Art Gallery will soon be opened featuring much of

John's extensive personal collection. If you are a collector of fine art, plan on pursuing the artwork of philanthropist, businessman and arts patron John Cutruzzola while also shopping for fine gifts, jewelry, children collections, baskets and custom orders at Baci Gifts. You're most welcome to visit the newly renovated building in Downtown Brampton, 35-37 Queen St. West! For further information, contact Grettel Comas or visit www.bacigifts.com/pages/about-us

If any of our members are celebrating a special moment (i.e. a birthday, wedding, birth, accomplishment, positive shared experience) or know of any other member who is, please email Sheila Walker at sheila@keystrokesdesign.ca, so we may acknowledge the moment at the next monthly meeting. It is important to share in each others' happiness. It helps keep us connected!



October 1, 2020: Presentation of \$2,200 donation to BPW Brampton Community Partner, Hope 24/7.



BPW Brampton
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Suite 154
Brampton, ON L6X 1R2

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Pat Dowling
(905) 789-8198 ext 203

Email
info@bpwbrampton.com

Website
www.bpwbrampton.com

Social Media
📷 BPWBrampton
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Women Working for Women

Dinner Location:

Vesuvio's Ristorante
91 George Street South
Brampton, ON L6T 1P4
905-459-0511

BPW Brampton THANKS

BRAMPTON BUSINESS EXECUTIVE SUITES
for their ongoing support of
accepting our Club's mail.

For more information on
what services they provide,
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info@bbes.ca
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BPW BRAMPTON EXECUTIVE 2020-2021

President **Lynne Taylor**
Immediate Past President **Indira Persaud**
First Vice President **Alexandra Hopkins**
Second Vice President **Gretta Comas**
Treasurer **Pat Dowling**
Recording Secretary **Marilena Crupi**
Corresponding Secretary **Lynn Rudolph**
Membership Chair **Barb Hore**
Programs Chair **Indira Persaud**
Publicity & Public Relations **Sheila Walker**

Young BPW **Zainab Williams**
Social Media **Zainab Williams**
Events Chair **Pat Dowling**
Resolutions Chair **Alexandra Hopkins**
Archivist **Pat Dowling**
Dinner Convenor **Indira Persaud**
Club Focus Creative Director **Sheila Walker**
Website **Donna Sauve**

2020-2021 Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
Programs Meeting for 2020-2021.
Meeting held on Zoom.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
CANCELLED: BPW Brampton General Meeting.
Executive held practice run on Zoom in preparation
for October 20 General Meeting.

OCTOBER 20, 2020
Speaker: Constable Joy Brown, Peel Regional
Police
Topic: Peel Human Trafficking Service Providers
Committee and its meaningful involvement in Peel
and the Greater Toronto Area with its work in
Human Trafficking.

NOVEMBER 13, 2020
CANCELLED: 27th 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, 2020
Speakers are BPW Community Partners including:
Hope 24/7 – Lisa McDonald
Honeychurch – Wendy Butler
Victim Services of Peel – Debbie Lupton
Wellspring Chinguacousy – Alex Smith
St. Louise Food Bank – Catherine Rivera
Topic: Each Community Partner will be allowed
10-15 minutes to speak about how BPW Brampton's
Donation has assisted their agency in delivering
services to their clients.

DECEMBER 8, 2020 (2nd Tuesday of December)
Speaker: Elvira Hopper
Topic: Living Your Best Life and Cultivating
the Spirit of Giving
Our Club is also discussing a meaningful get
together to celebrate Christmas in a socially
responsible outside gathering. Also, we are
considering a financial donation and/or
sponsoring a family for Christmas.

JANUARY 19, 2021
Speaker: Tracy Pepe, Owner of The Scented L'Air
29 Queen Street East, Brampton
Topic: How the Nose Knows

FEBRUARY 16, 2021
Speaker: Natalia Soroko, as one of the newest
members of our Club, Natalia is a Young Traveller,
Entrepreneur who has served the United Nations
and lived in Dubai. She will speak about Women's
International Issues and Women's Rights through her
own lived experiences.
Topic: Emirati Women. Difference between Emirati
and Western Mindset.
* International Theme Night Honouring all the BPW
Clubs Throughout the World!
* Celebrating BPW Internationally with our
Traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony

MARCH 5, 2021
26th 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 16, 2021
Speaker: Liz Jeffrey, Advocate for Deaf Children
Topic: Deaf children and the Court Process.

APRIL 20, 2021
Speaker: Alexandra Hopkins, BPW Brampton
First Vice President and Resolutions Team
Topic: Issues facing women and future Resolutions.
Make an impact for the Issues Facing Today's
Women ... All Members Welcome to Join Us!

MAY 18, 2021
Topic: Annual General Meeting & Elections.
Come Out and Support BPW Brampton and Be Part
in Its Direction. Consider Being on the Executive!

JUNE 9, 2021
The First Annual Janet Brousseau
Ladies Charity Golf Tournament
Caledon Golf Club, More Details to Follow!
Celebrating BPW Brampton's
25th Golf Tournament Anniversary

JUNE 15, 2021
Our Famous June Social at The Terra Cotta Inn,
Caledon! Invite a Guest or Two!

JULY 13, 2021
Programs Meeting for 2021-2022
Your suggestions for Speakers for Next Season are
Welcome. Please contact Programs Chair to add
your voice.

MAY 2021: BPW 75th Provincial Conference, Barrie
BPW Canada Convention, Ottawa

OCTOBER: Women's History Month

MARCH 8: International Women's Day



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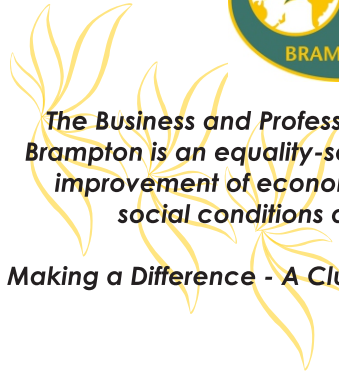
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The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton is an equality-seeking group toward the improvement of economic, employment and social conditions affecting women.

Making a Difference - A Club for All Working Women.



Grettel Comas

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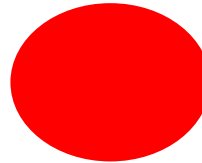
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