

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton





SPRING 2016



Janet Brousseau President BPW Brampton

Newsletter Highlights

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President's Message Janet Brousseau

t is hard to believe that my first year as your BPW President has almost come to an end. I am truly proud of our Club and the accomplishments that have once again achieved. We have an astonishing 46 members and we are the largest Club in Ontario! Way to go ladies!

Our February meeting was the **Celebration of our International Candle Lighting Ceremony** where we honoured all our BPW sisters around the world. In addition, we had **Canadian Women for Women Afghanistan** receive our International donation in the amount of \$800.00. This was in support of 'The Lantern Fund' which will pay for the salaries of two teachers.

We had our **17th Progressive Charity Euchre Night on March 4, 2016.** BPW Brampton along with Scotiabank 'Bright Futures Program', we will be able to present \$4,000.00 from the proceeds of that evening to **24/7 Hope** (formerly the Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centre of Peel). At our March meeting, we presented our portion of \$2,000.00 and Scotiabank's portion will be mailed to 24/7 Hope. Thank you Pat Dowling and your committee for another excellent night!

In March, the **Brampton Club celebrated our 69th Anniversary**. From 1948, I read a report from Mrs. Edna McLean. A very interesting topic for that evening was Venereal Disease, nothing compared to the topics we have discussed in recent years. As well, we were honoured to meet the recipient of The Paddy Silverthorne Business & Professional Women's Bursary Award – Shauna Jones from Sheridan

College. I am hoping that Shauna will be interested in joining us as a Young BPW. For our April meeting, Camilla Bignell will be presenting all upcoming Resolutions to be debated and voted on by our membership. This will allow our delegates to vote on them at the upcoming **Provincial Conference** in order to help us make changes for women on all levels of Government – Municipal, Provincial, National and International. We are very excited to be hosting the Conference this year from **Friday, May 27 to Sunday, May 29** at the Holiday Inn Toronto Airport East. It would be nice to see as many of our Brampton members old and new come out and participate.

In May, we have our **Annual General Meeting** and your new Executive will be voted in. Please consider letting your name stand for a position on the Executive. It is a great way to have input and to take a more active role in your Club.

Our June Social will be held at the Terra Cotta Inn again this year on June 21, 2016. It will be a fun-filled evening enjoying a lovely venue and hopefully able to be outdoors for part of the night. Another date to keep in mind for June is our Annual Golf Tournament which will be held June 15, 2016 at the Caledon Golf Club.

We will be having our yearly **Programs Meeting on Tuesday**, **July 12**, **2016**. Pat Dowling has been kind enough to host this meeting at her home. It is a pot luck dinner at 6 pm with our meeting at 7 pm. Please bring your ideas and contacts to this meeting so that we can have another year of exciting and informative speakers. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send me your ideas by email and they will be presented at the meeting.



It has been an amazing journey for me and I thank each and every member especially my Executive for making my role as President so enjoyable. Thank you to all of our members for making our Brampton Club such a vibrant organization. Thank you for spreading the word of BPW Brampton – for bringing your friends to meetings and for increasing our presence in the community. To an outstanding group of ladies – you truly are the best!

Special Events Pat Dowling





e have booked our 21st Annual Charity Golf Event for

Wednesday, June 15, 2016. It will be held once again at the Caledon Golf Club and we now have registrations available. We have so far 12 foursomes booked and 12 hole

sponsors. We would love to see 144 lady golfers and 36 hole sponsors, so please help us to reach these numbers!

EUCHRE







will be held on Friday, November 11, 2016 at the Glasgow Rangers Club – Scottish Club and ticket

sales will begin in September 2016. We are needing raffle prizes once again so we are looking for any regifts or bargain shopping deals that you can donate to us. If you receive any birthday, Mother's Day items, etc. that you would like to re-gift – we are here with open arms! Let me know and we will arrange for pick up.

As you know, we just held our 18th Charity Progressive Euchre Event on Friday, March 4, 2016. It was held at the Scottish Centre and it was a huge success. We had 80 players, Joker Poker, raffle prizes, good food and lots of fun.

We want to thank all of our members who donated food, gifts and their time to help with this event. We cannot be successful at these fundraisers without our members continually stepping up to the challenge of participating – either in person or by their contributions. We as a Club should be very proud that we make such a difference in our community.

The recipient of this event was Hope 24/7 formerly the Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centre of Peel.

We are very pleased to announce that we raised \$2,000.00 that evening. As you know, we have been very fortunate in having Scotiabank contributing to our fundraising with their Bright Futures Program. We are so happy to announce that Scotiabank will be donating an additional \$2,000.00 for Hope 24/7 for a total donation of \$4,000.00 from this event.

Provincial Report Barb Hore



am keeping myself very busy visiting Ontario Clubs to

promote our Provincial Conference which the Brampton Club is hosting this year. I have recently visited the Kitchener/Waterloo Club, Cambridge, Mississauga and Niagara Falls, all of which will be



sending members to Conference. In April, I plan to visit Bowmanville, Durham, Sudbury and North Toronto.

As I visit, I notice that some of the clubs have changed their meeting venue and I am impressed. Kitchener/Waterloo have a lovely new venue at the Stone Crock Restaurant in St. Jacobs (amazing food and great private room). The Mississauga Club have moved to a more central location called Stir. Again they now have a private room which is more friendly to a guest speaker.

Our Ontario membership numbers are holding well this year, and hopefully, we will see some growth by next year. There are so many women's groups in the Province but not many as unique as ours. As members it is so important that we get our advocacy message out to as many women as possible. We already do a great job of this which is the reason that we are THE LARGEST CLUB IN ONTARIO.

Just a reminder that the Barrie Club will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary on June 21st and anyone who would like to attend that celebration is most welcome to do so.

Membership Corner Linda Barker

nother BPW season is winding to an end so please remember to renew your membership by April 30th.

Our newest member is Beverly Benjamin and for those who have not yet met Bey, please do take



not yet met Bev, please do take time at the next meeting to introduce yourself. With a new season starting May 1st, it is a good

time to introduce friends and colleagues to BPW and our members, as people join for different reasons and I do believe BPW has that variety of options.

*

BPW Community Partner

Karen Armstrong



Honeychurch Family Life Resource Centre



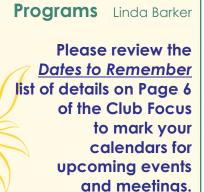
e received a recent letter of thanks from Marilyn Field, Director, Family Life Resource Centre which we would like to share with our Club members.

The letter read, "This letter is to thank you for your generous donation of \$3,000.00 given to the Honeychurch Family Life Resource Centre. We recognize that these funds were raised through the Annual Golf Tournament. We are delighted that you chose to support the work that we do here and appreciate your gift as we endeavour to meet the many needs of the families in our care.

The impact this support makes on the lives of the women and childen fleeing family violence, is immense! We wish you could see the faces of the children that benefit from the programs and activities we provide here. We also make a difference in the confidence level in the Moms as they too go through counselling and programs that help to develop independence and sutainability.

We endeavour to provide these families with the life skills, counselling and supports necessary to move on with their lives. It is through the support of individuals like you that we are able to provide this very necessary service to families in crisis.

Your support helps to make a difference in so many lives."



Visiting The Past Indira Persaud

came across a book entitled, "The Coolie Woman" by Gaitura Bahadur an Odyssey of Indenture Slave. In reading this book, I discovered my grandmother was an indenture slave who was sold from India and sailed to Guyana, South America as a



plantation worker. This book is a story of survival of many indenture slaves who were subjected to brutality, hard labour, dismal living conditions and sexual exploitation.

Last September 2015, I was invited by a very good friend of mine to visit Guyana, South America on a 7 day religious Hindu Yagna. I had mixed emotions when I committed to this trip as I did not know what to expect and visiting a place where I had no living relatives. Leaving the comforts of my home with electricity, clean water and safety of my environment, I was jumping into an environment where I had to be diligent about my surroundings and not to mention the intense heat.

The prayer starts at 12 Noon and ends at 6 pm daily for 7 days. As this was no easy task, the temple had to be cleaned, the gods had be cleaned and dressed daily and meals had to be prepared twice a day. Each session would have about 200 people that had be fed. I have never experienced such an event like this in my life where we were cooking in an open fire with sweltering heat. Huge pots cooking rice, curry potatoes, lentils, spinach and pumpkin. After the 7 day religious event was over, we estimated we prepared for over 1,500 people that visited the temple. I was humbled by this experience as the majority of people were poor and they can only offer kind words and beautiful smiles that made me feel warm and welcome.

I managed to speak to young girls. I wanted to know about their dreams and aspirations, for many their only hope was marriage. This was their only way out of poverty but they had to find a suitable person to marry as they did not want to become burdens to their families. The lack of higher education and opportunities leaves many young girls in destitute positions. I discovered human trafficking is big business in Guyana and I hope and pray one day such crimes against women will not exist.

This adventure into my past has given me such a gift on how I want the next few years of my life to unfold. I am more committed to serve again in Guyana not only as a humanitarian but as a teacher. My friends and I hopefully

will be going back in 2018 to serve two small villages for about 4,000 people. Our goal is to transform the temple into a learning centre and place of worship.

I wish to thank my grandmother and parents for all they have endured so I could live freely and openly in Canada.



Focus on a Member: Doris Power Sheila Walker

oris Power has worked in the areas of accounting and administration

for most of her career, working

for such large companies as



National Cash Register (NCR), United Water and Bombardier Transportation.

In November 1994, she joined BPW Brampton and attended her first conference in Niagara Falls in 1995. Since then, she has attended about 17 Conferences, held positions such as Club Focus Assistant Editor, Membership, Vice President and President. Her BPW journey has also included serving 6 years on the Provincial Board; as Young BPW Chair, Publicity & Public Relations, and finally as Southeastern District Director for the Ottawa, Kingston, Belleville and Trenton & District Clubs. In 2004, she moved back to her roots in Nova Scotia, but things didn't come together so she moved back to Ontario settling in Kingston in June 2006, transferring her BPW membership to Kingston.

Over the years, Doris has served on other Boards such as the Brampton Arts Council, Art Gallery of Peel, Treasurer Liaison Acquisitions Committee, Girls Inc. Limestone, Kingston and Collins Bay Horticultural Society. While in Kingston, Doris found another passion in gardening becoming a Master Gardener in March 2013. She currently presents various horticultural topics to horticultural societies and at seniors centre workshops. Doris is also a watercolour artist and photographer. She is currently transitioning back to the Brampton area and is working in Mississauga. Her son Darren is a litigation lawyer working and living in Toronto.

Humane Society

he 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



Focus on a Member: Pat Bonello Sheila Walker

atricia Bonello been in the telecommunications industry for her whole career. First starting with Bell Canada and then moving to smaller independent companies after having her only child, her daughter.



Patricia is a sales/account manager now for Eclipse Technology Solutions. She specializes in working with businesses in understanding their telecommunications requirements and recommending technology to improve employee productivity and gain a competitive edge through the use of technology. They supply and install telecommunications, video and data network solutions for companies to allow them to be more productive and stay in better contact with their customers. For example telephone, voicemail systems and data equipment for wired and wireless networks.

Pat has lived in Brampton for the past 25 years. She enjoys spending her summer weekends up north at her place on Georgian Bay. Some of the things she enjoys doing are golfing, reading and hiking as well as spending time with her friends and family. She is also the proud gramma of twin 5 year old boys, who she enjoys spending time with.

BPW Resolutions & Briefs Camilla Bignell



esolutions passed at a Provincial Conference or

National Convention contain directives to urge the provincial or federal governments to take some action. These directives outlined in the approved resolution Therefore It Be Resolved statements are consolidated into a written brief for submission to the various government ministries, and leaders of the



opposition parties. A copy of the brief is circulated to Club Presidents for use at the local and/or provincial levels, i.e. for issuing press releases, and/or arranging meetings with their community-based Member of Provincial Parliament representatives, (MPP), or Members of Federal Parliament (MP).

Opportunities to meet with the ministries affected by the resolutions enclosed in the brief are requested/granted. These meetings provide a further opportunity to strengthen our relationships with decision makers and to reinforce how and why we feel our resolutions should be implemented. A report of these meetings and correspondence is communicated to the membership through emails, routine mailings, annual reports and the website.

BPW International Snigdha Malik

Please visit the new BPW International Website www.bpw-international.org for news and updated information on BPW International, our sisters that are making a difference in this world and be inspired.



Posted by BPW International on Wednesday, 30 March 2016

To Work or to Opt Out – Is it really a choice?

Opting out," the "mummy track," the "second shift" – these are whole new terms to describe the phenomenon that has impacted the lives of millions of women.

Does motherhood mean an end to a woman's career? To continue working or to opt-out—is it really a *choice* women have to make? Is there a way you can have your career and still be a great parent?

"Opting out", a term coined by Lisa Belkin, has become a phenomenon that has drawn a lot of interest in the recent past because of the impact it is causing on a whole segment of the labour force. Kaiser Family Foundation partnered with New York Times and CBS News to conduct a poll of nonworking adults in the United States and found that 61% of women chose to leave the workforce because of family responsibilities as compared to 37% of men. That 61% represents a segment of highly skilled professionals at the prime of their career and productivity; a great loss indeed.

Your biggest worry is probably losing out time spent with your child.

As a working mum, one of the biggest struggles comes with the guilt of not doing enough for your children. There is no reason to stress as findings from a Harvard Business School study show that daughters of working mothers are generally much more successful, earn more, and are more likely than others to become bosses.

This suggests that it is actually a great thing for you to be working and becoming a role model for your children to look up to.

The bigger loss at hand is actually you.

The key findings in a Harvard Business Review article on examining women graduates leaving the workforce, titled Keeping Talented Woman on the Road to Success found that:

Women experience an average loss of 18% of their earning power when they opt out of work. In business sectors, women's earning power falls by approximately 28% when they take a break. The longer the break, the more severe the penalty. Women lose a shocking 37% of their earning power across sectors, when they spend three or more years out of the workforce.

Simply put, for women who do choose to opt out, they will find it tougher to integrate back into the workforce and will have to settle for less. In such unfavourable conditions, mums will not be motivated to get back to the working force which attributes to a significant economical loss as well as loss of skills and knowledge.

Flexible Hours – A win-win situation for both working mums and companies

Fortunately, in Australia, the Paid Parental Leave schemeshelps women return to work. Although this is a step in the right direction, there is still much to do on a global scale when it comes to offering flexible work hours.

Many companies recognise that working mothers are an invaluable asset and have worked out great ways to retain them, including revising their working hours. One of those is Johnson & Johnson. One woman who has worked at J&J for the past 15 years and who had her first child at the age of 40 said: "I thought I only had two choices—work full-time or leave—and I didn't want either. J&J's reduced-hour option has been a savior."

The odds might be against working mums at the moment but there are many mums who are making the balance work. Jennifer Owens, the editorial director of Working Mother and director of the Working Mother Research Institute, is one such mum. At the end of her maternity leave, Owens was in an emotional turmoil – wondering if she should stay at home with her new born, or opt out. In an article she wrote, Owens reveals that she decided to surge ahead; and after a decade, she is happy that she didn't opt out. "I'm glad I still have my career. I support my family, I am valued at work, and I'm a role model to both my daughter and my son," she says.

Women shouldn't have to be made to choose between whether to work or opt out. Instead, there is a third option, which is to balance both family and career. While this may still be a struggle, companies can do their part by looking into measures, such as flexible working hours, to helping women cope with both aspects. This not only benefits women and their families but also companies when the skills and knowledge of these women are retained and remain assets to the company and to the workforce.

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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, please contact them at: (905) 454-7902 info@bbes.ca



Your 2015-2016 Executive

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2016 Dates to Remember

APRIL 19 <u>Speaker</u>: Camilla Bignell <u>Topic</u>: Help shape issues relevant to women in society. Resolutions with Camilla and her Team.

MAY 17 <u>Topic</u>: 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 Terra Cotta Inn

JULY 12 2016-2017 Programs Meeting



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

> Making a Difference! A Club for All Working Women.

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