

**THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN'S CLUB OF BRAMPTON**



ANNUAL REPORTS

2020 - 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – May 18, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM

Previous Meeting Location:

**Vesuvio's Ristorante
91 George Street South
Brampton, Ontario L6T 1P4**



**A member of The Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario
A member of The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs**

**The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton
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WE HONOUR OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton **Annual Reports 2020 – 2021**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: LYNNE TAYLOR

What a challenging and rewarding year this has been.

The 2020 – 2021 year started with reorganizing our monthly Executive and General Meetings held virtually over Zoom. There were and still are some learning curves and technical issues in this process, but over all, it has gone smoothly.

Holding our meetings virtually allowed the opportunity to book guest speakers that would have otherwise been difficult to schedule, due to travel considerations when being asked to present in person at our meetings. As a result, we had a wide variety of speakers over the past seven months covering a variety of interesting topics that affect women and their families.

Another change was the fact that our infamous Euchre and Golf fundraising tournaments were not able to be held, due to COVID restrictions, so never ones to give up, we explored other options such as online auctions, meat and cookie drives. We settled on a meat drive as our first fundraiser of 2020/2021 in collaboration with the Canadian Progressive Club, and while this fundraiser is still currently under way, the sales to date are looking very promising to be able to raise funds to continue supporting our community partners.

Recognizing the impact that COVID has had on gender equality and the regressive employment effects it has had on women specifically and the lack of action to counter these effects, BPW Brampton commenced a Small Business Support Campaign in January 2020. The purpose of this campaign was to feature and promote women small business owners in Brampton, highlight the importance of small business and discuss the impact of buying local. To date we have featured four women small business owners on our social media links for the months of January through April.

It was also a big year for our Resolutions Committee and moving ahead with the implementation of our Resolution – The Expansion of Funding for Victims of Domestic Violence to Live Safely in their Communities approved at last year's BPW Ontario Annual Conference. The Resolutions Committee has made great strides in advancing this Resolution to all three levels of government.

Our Club's social media platform has been very busy this past year with focused postings on a variety of women related topics and history. Social media continues to be a tremendous contribution to building awareness of BPW Brampton within our community through the advocacy work that we do and the continued support of our community partners.

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This year has been a very collaborative experience for BPW Brampton. We have appreciated the support for our aforementioned Resolution, through our own community partners, but also other local non-profit organizations, which aligned with our Resolution and saw the opportunity to create a united voice. We are looking forward to and already discussing other ways in which to collaborate with these newly formed connections within our community.

Alex Hopkins, our First Vice-President and Resolutions Committee Chair, is also representing BPW Brampton on the newly formed BPW Ontario Inclusivity and Diversity Committee. Because of Alex's involvement in this newly formed Committee, BPW Brampton is now considering how to make membership accessible to more women within our community.

In closing, I would like to thank our Immediate Past President, Indira Persaud, for lighting the way for me in my first year of presidency with this Club. Indira, together with the rest of the Executive have been invaluable to me. We have a great "team", with years of knowledge, experience, and different strengths. I would also like to thank all our members for sticking it out with us this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Taylor
President

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: INDIRA PERSAUD

It has been my honour to work with Lynne Taylor this past year. It has been my role to support Lynne in every way possible to make her job enjoyable. Lynne has done a terrific job in transitioning our Club to an online format due to COVID-19.

The Call for Nominations and the follow-up to confirm that members are willing to let their name stand was also my responsibility for the Annual Election process at our Annual General Meeting in May.

My passion for the Club and the great work we do only increases in time. I am always excited to see when our governmental agencies make small steps towards equality for women.

Thank you to Lynne Taylor and the entire Executive for a wonderful year!

Respectfully submitted,

Indira Persaud
Immediate Past President

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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ALEXANDRA HOPKINS

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Vice President of Business and Professional Women of Brampton over this past year. In a year that humbled the world, BPW has persevered and proven itself as resilient as the women in our Club.

Where the world took an abrupt pause, both our Executive and Resolutions Committees re-evaluated our methods, our priorities, and our dedication to the BPW mandate. We were able to effectively transition our work to virtual means, prioritize membership retention, partnership building, and our continued support of our community partners. COVID-19 only solidified our solidarity to the work BPW is committed to doing, and my own dedication to the issues that affect women and those who identify as women in our community.

I am grateful to have been elected as Vice President and Resolutions Chair so that I can utilize my passion for equitable human rights in this manner, and to have that passion be so supported by my BPW sisters has been very gratifying. I look forward to my continued work with BPW Brampton in any and all capacities you allow me.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Hopkins
First Vice President

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SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: GRETTEL COMAS

BPW MEMBERS, WE ARE ESSENTIAL!

2020-2021... A period of renovation, experimentation, relaxation, vaccination and many more changes that are happening to most of us. We have been able to go with the flow, not give up and together we are all supporting each other. The time has forced us to adapt to the new style of "light living", new ways of working, meetings and doing business and supporting locals and I hope you have the opportunity to discover inside and out beautiful gems and activities throughout the process.

Times continue to be interesting and the group still stands together and now more than ever we need you- and here is how we can contribute to maintain a healthy and strong group. First of all, by **taking care & loving yourself** – please be mentally and physically active. By **supporting our members** when needed, inviting a friend or two to our general meetings to **help increase our membership, belonging to any of the committees** that need your support and your brilliant ideas, **sending an article** or information to the "Club Focus" to help others know you better or to help educate in some aspect. **Join the board meetings**, participate more actively and **get involved with your community**.

It's a new reality and many things are here to stay and one of them I hope is our BPW group, we count on you and your participation, donations, and your valuable volunteer time is greatly appreciated. I am very happy to see you all in the new upcoming period. I encourage you to bring the best of you and share it with all of us, because together -we are stronger and we'll go very far because we are essential!

Respectfully submitted,

Grettel Comas
Second Vice President

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TREASURER'S REPORTS: PAT DOWLING

BPW Brampton
Balance Sheet
as of April 30, 2021

ASSETS	
RBC Chequing Account	9,972.44
Manulife Bank Savings Account	11,145.12
Petty Cash	50.00
Mentoring Program Cash Reserve	1,927.95
Prepaid Expenses:	
Golf	503.00
2021 Provincial Conference	150.00
Euchre	200.00
June Social	200.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>24,148.51</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Prepaid Revenue:	
Golf	0.00
Membership	1,845.00
Mentoring Program	1,927.95
Total Liabilities	<u>3,772.95</u>
EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	23,591.08
Net Income/Loss	-3,215.52
Total Equity	<u>20,375.56</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>24,148.51</u>

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BPW Brampton
Profit and Loss Statement
May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

REVENUE		Revenue	Expense	Net
50/50	0.00			
Golf (Net)	0.00			
Interest	51.50			
Membership (Net)	-106.92	5,455.00	5,561.92	-106.92
Dinner (Net)	0.00			
Euchre (Net)	0.00			
Membership Advertising (Net)	0.00			
Donations	100.00			
	<u>44.58</u>			
EXPENSES				
Bank Charges	195.00			
Conference	250.00		Provincial Conference	
Donations	2,300.00			
Insurance	0.00			
Administration	203.40		Zoom Fees	
Fellowship	7.66			
Honourariums	0.00		Guest Speakers	
Website	304.04		Constant Contact	
Bursary	0.00			
Advertising	0.00			
	<u>3,260.10</u>			
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	-3,215.52			

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Dowling
Treasurer

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RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT: MARILENA CRUPI

This was my first year as Recording Secretary, and being relatively new to BPW, it was a great way to get familiar with the BPW Executive process. I attended the Executive and General Meetings throughout the year and recorded and submitted the meeting minutes. This was a challenging year full of obstacles and limitations, and I am so proud of my fellow Executives for what we were able to accomplish and for staying positive throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilena Crupi
Recording Secretary

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: INDIRA PERSAUD

It has been my pleasure to serve as Corresponding Secretary to our Club. My role is to update the Executive and General Membership about our Community Partners and regular publications we receive. I also correspond with our membership with respect to messages and greetings when requested by our President.

Corresponding Secretary is an excellent position to start within Executive. It gives you the opportunity to work with the Executive and gain an excellent understanding how our Club operates. The time commitment is minimal.

Once again, it has been a pleasure as your Corresponding Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Indira Persaud
Corresponding Secretary

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR REPORT: BARB HORE

Wow! Another year has passed so quickly and with so many challenges to Clubs and to our Community Partners. Our Executive has worked so hard to ensure interesting programs and great communications with our membership and an inspiring mentorship program to encourage younger members to step forward and take on roles that assist them in their personal development as well. All of these factors have contributed to our success as a Club in a very difficult year.

Our membership closes as of April 30th at 40 members which still makes us by far, the largest Ontario Club. We bid a warm welcome to our new members who have joined us and my special thanks to those who introduced them to our Club. It is so important that we continue to maintain an active social media presence and that we continue to spread the word whenever possible about the value of belonging to our Club.

My thoughts are with you all as we continue to navigate through this COVID-19 crisis.

Stay safe.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Hore
Membership Chair

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PROGRAMS REPORT: INDIRA PERSAUD

It has been another incredible year for the Programs Chair for BPW. Thank you to all members of the Executive and our members at large who helped in recruiting our amazing speakers.

September was a re-group for the Executive to get familiar with our new online Zoom format before launching in October when Constable Joy Brown, Peel Regional Police discussed Peel Human Trafficking Service Providers Committee and its meaningful involvement in Peel and the Greater Toronto Area with its work in Human Trafficking.

In November, we had the opportunity to listen to our Community Partners talk about the impact of COVID-19 affecting their business and clients. How COVID-19 affected the marginalized and the increase in domestic violence. In December, we ended the year with Elvira Hopper – Living your Best Life and Cultivating the Spirit of Giving. We were also entertained by a great BPW with singing and some online dancing. For the first time online, we engaged our members to support Ste. Louise Foodbank for Christmas.

January we opened up with Tracey Pepe, Owner of the Scented L'Air – How the Nose Knows, What if we Thought of Mental Health differently". February our very own Young BPW Nataliia Soroko, gave us an insight of Emirati Women – Difference between Emirati and Western Mindset. In March our Young Leaders Program showcased Olivia Stockmann an intern for the United Nations Leadership Support Section highlighting the role of women leadership at the United Nations.

April is Resolutions with Alexandra Hopkins, First Vice President who talked about Project Guardian and future Resolutions. In May we move to Elections, Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Our First Annual Janet Brousseau Golf Tournament and Terra Cotta Social had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

It has been a great pleasure being a part of this hard working Executive and thank everyone who helped make this year a great online success. Looking forward to our Programs Meeting in July to determine our Speaker Series for 2021-2022. All invited!

Enjoy your summer with family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Indira Persaud
Programs Chair

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PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: SHEILA WALKER

While this year has operated quite differently due to our current COVID-19 related circumstances, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to fulfill responsibilities as BPW Brampton's Publicity and Public Relations Chair for the 2020-2021 season. It has been my pleasure and I am proud to work with such an amazing group of women who share the same interests in working with our community activities resulting in another successful year for BPW Brampton.

As well as Publicity and Public Relations Chair, I am also Designer/Publisher for the Club publications namely Club Focus Newsletter with three issues each year, Membership Directory, BPW Brampton Annual Reports for the Club, as well as, Photographer when required.

As Publicity and Public Relations Chair, my duties include mainly:

- Constant Contact communication and management. Our Club continues to use Constant Contact as our means of communication to members and community for our many events throughout the season aligning the Club with the necessary email privacy regulations. Continuing with Constant Contact which I set up and implemented for the Club at the beginning of March 2016.
- Maintaining and updating all distribution email lists for optimum communication. As well, our distribution lists include the Golf Event and Euchre Event contacts which is updated and/or revised as required so that all correspondence is by Constant Contact and in agreeance with privacy regulations.
- Creating and emailing Meeting Notices, Agendas, Minutes and Treasurer Report for Executive and General Meetings. Communicating with members by emails on behalf of the President and other members of the Executive when required. As well, I attended the virtual Programs Meeting to assist in organizing Speakers for 2020-2021 season. Traditionally, I assist as Volunteer Floater where required at our two Fundraising Euchre Events and BPW Golf Event, and of course, these event were cancelled this season.

Looking forward to continued success with our great Club!

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Walker
Publicity & Public Relations

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YOUNG BPW AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS: MARILENA CRUPI AND ZAINAB WILLIAMS

Taking on the Young BPW / Social Media role during this very challenging year was quite the experience, and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

Going in, my goal was to continue the great work that Zainab Williams had started on social media, posting news and content that was relevant to our Club's mandate, and highlighting the work that BPW Brampton was doing in the community. What I didn't expect was to learn so much about women's history and the work being done by women in this city, so much so that I have a new found appreciation for the issues facing women today.

Posting content is one thing, but understanding the context, providing your own commentary and appreciating the impact of what you're posting makes this truly a unique role that promotes constant learning, and I encourage other members to get involved in this area.

I came on board at the end of our 16 Days of Activism campaign against Gender-based Violence, and jumped right in with a campaign to support and promote Women-run small businesses in Brampton, which we are planning to continue throughout the year. In February, we celebrated Black History Month and in March continued to feature women breaking barriers as part of Women's History Month. We grew our online presence, our following, and established connections with various individuals and groups aligned with our mission. Despite the challenges, it has been an amazing year.

A special thank you to Lynne Taylor and Indira Persaud who have been incredible mentors to me and great resources throughout this process, and to the rest of the Executive who welcomed me warmly. They are an amazing and hard-working group of women!

Respectfully submitted,

Marilena Crupi and Zainab Williams
Young BPW and Social Media

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EVENTS CHAIR REPORT: PAT DOWLING

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 we had to postpone our Annual Charity Golf Tournament to Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENTS:

Both of our March and November Charity Euchre Events had to be postponed due to COVID-19. Our next tentative date is Friday, November 12, 2021.

MEAT/SEAFOOD DRIVE:

With COVID-19 still very dominant in our lives, we have had to think outside of the box in order to raise monies for our community partners. It is very important to not only our membership but to fulfill our mandate to play an active role in our community and to support women that so desperately need our help.

We were very happy to be able to collaborate with the Canadian Progress Club in their Annual Meat/Seafood Drive. With McGregor Meats having a stellar reputation for good quality food we had a great response for orders.

We are very pleased to report that we raised \$1,000.00 that we will be able to donate to our community partners.

We are going to look at partnering with the Canadian Progress Club for their Meat/Seafood Drive in September and their Christmas Cookie Drive just in time for Santa and his Elves.

We truly appreciate everyone joining in our events by purchasing items, passing them onto families and friends so that even with the unusual circumstances that we find ourselves in, we can still make a difference to the lives of women in our community.

Stay safe and well.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Dowling
Events Chair

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RESOLUTIONS CHAIR REPORT: ALEXANDRA HOPKINS

In my role as Chair of the Resolutions Committee, we were successful in receiving unanimous support from BPW Ontario at the 2020 Conference; our Resolution asking the Government of Ontario to expand options for victims of domestic violence to live safely in their communities was submitted to the Premier and relevant Ministers. Our Committee also saw the opportunity to advocate at a local level, bringing our efforts to Brampton City Council. We are proud of our approach, and have focused on partnership building, bringing together various perspectives, and making our individual voices louder together. We have had meetings with City Councillor Williams and her office, Peel Regional Police, and non-profit organizations that support women; this has allowed for a fulsome, insightful, and impactful resolution. Our resolution is in the hands of Brampton's Community Safety Advisory Committee, and with their support, we are hopeful to present to City Council, seeking their endorsement to both the Region and the Province.

There have been several moments of excitement and surrealness that our work was being received as well as it has been. Our attention to partnership building has brought about opportunities to present to many groups and individuals focused on women's safety and well-being to not only learn how we might complement each other, but develop our image and broaden our membership.

I have also become involved with BPW Ontario's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, a group devoted to examining, evaluating, and developing a plan of action to improve BPW's diversity and inclusion efforts, to ensure all those who identify as women feel welcome, accepted, and safe in our clubs.

I am grateful to have been elected as Vice President and Resolutions Chair so that I can utilize my passion for equitable human rights in this manner, and to have that passion be so supported by my BPW sisters has been very gratifying. I look forward to my continued work with BPW Brampton in any and all capacities you allow me.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Hopkins
Resolutions Chair

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WE HONOUR OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

1947-49	Margaret Van Alstyne (McLean) *	1982-83	Wilma Taras
1949-50	Audrey Robinson (Brendle) *	1983-84	Pat Whifford
1950-52	Lilas Trout *	1984-85	Pat Whitmore
1952-54	Florence Chin *	1985-87	Mary Andrews *
1954-55	Elizabeth Birss *	1987-89	Paddy Silverthorne *
1955-56	Jean Wilson (Lansdell) *	1989-91	Dittie Voegele (Hay)
1956-57	Eleanor MacDonald *	1991-92	Helen Armstrong
1957-58	Irene Abbott *	1992-94	Carol Edestrand
1958-60	Jessie Black (Evans) *	1994-95	Darla Campbell
1960-62	Greta Capps *	1995-97	Carol Kollar
1962-64	Gladys McBride *	1997-99	Doris Smith
1964-66	Isabel McMullen *	1999-2001	Tracey Marshall
1966-68	Dena Heather *	2001-03	Susanne Balpataky
1968-70	Mary Lock *	2003-05	Irma Dafoe
1970-72	Ann Felesko *	2005-07	Linda Ford
1972-74	Mary Lester	2007-09	Snigda Malik
1974	Margaret MacKenzie	2009-11	Barbara Hore
1974-76	Helen Kirk	2011	Heather Moogk
1976-79	Hannah Yarronton *	2012-2015	Pat Dowling
1979-80	Louise Scisizzi	2015-2018	Janet Brousseau *
1980-81	Gladys Martin *	2018-2020	Indira Persaud
1981-82	Barbara Dunning *	2020	Lynne Taylor

* Deceased and Respectfully Remembered.