



The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton

# Club Focus

FALL 2023

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2023 Resolutions Outcome

25th Annual Ladies Charity Golf

Tournament June 19, 2023 \* Photos

BPW Members Business Card Directory



### BPW Brampton Mailing Address

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### Phone Contact

Pat Dowling  
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### Email

info@bpwbrampton.com

### Website

www.bpwbrampton.com



### Social Media

BPWBrampton  
BPW Brampton

### Women Working for Women



### MEETINGS LOCATION

Fanzorelli's Restaurant

& Wine Bar

50 Queen Street West

Brampton, ON L6K 4H3

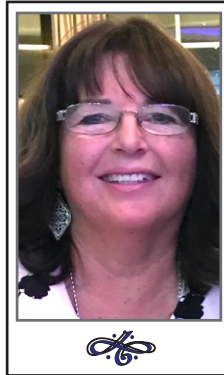
### Third Tuesday of the Month

### JOIN ZOOM MEETING

AS REQUIRED

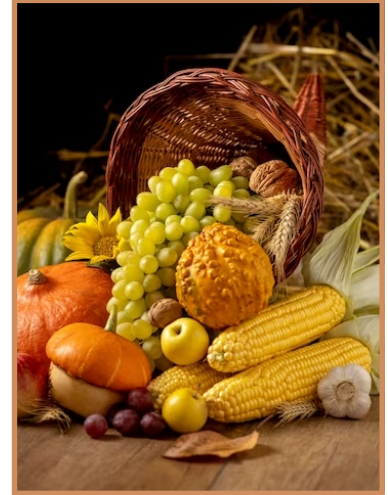
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## BPW Brampton President's Message

Linda Ford



I always say that BPW is my heart!! It has always been a great source of

advocacy, friendships, camaraderie, networking, support, and service.

Our cornerstone and foundation is advocacy. BPW has been able to not only advocate for change – but see it through. It is important to see the effects and successes – long term – of the work that has been done by BPW locally, Provincially, Federally and Internationally. With BPW Clubs in 100 countries around the world, it is a sisterhood that is strong and powerful!

Giving back to the community on a local level has been so rewarding knowing that we are paying it forward and doing our part to help those around us in some small way.

That's why it's so important to us to have community partners who really focus on core values that align with BPW and that support our mandate.

Our **Community Partners** are:

- Honeychurch (Women's Shelter)
- Ste. Louise Community Outreach and Food Bank
- Hope 24/7
- Wellspring Chinguacousy
- Victim Services of Peel
- SNAPSO

Our local membership is inclusive, not exclusive. We have members who are at the beginning of their career, midway, and at the sunset of their work lives. Everyone can have a part to play.

Membership in our club provides a platform for women to learn, lead, and support one another. We are always looking for new members so consider joining Brampton's Best Kept Secret!

BPW Brampton has been fund-raising since it's inception **76 years ago!** Over the years we have done Book Drives, High Tea's, Garage Sales, Golf Tournaments, Meat Drives, Cookie Drives, Euchre Tournaments, Trade Shows, etc. We rely on our members and the community to support these endeavours. It is after all how we provide sustainability for our club finances and give back to the community.

BPW Brampton is special! We will continue our work to effect positive change in the world and to embrace our members and our community to do good work.





## BPW BRAMPTON EXECUTIVE 2023-2024

President **Linda Ford**  
Interim Past President **Carol Kollar**  
1st Vice President **Angela McKinnon**  
2nd Vice President **Amanda Graham-Rowe**  
Treasurer **Pat Dowling**  
Recording Secretary **Barbara Hore**  
Corresponding Secretary **Pat Tiveron**  
Membership Chair **Barbara Hore**  
Programs Chair **Angela McKinnon**  
Publicity & Public Relations **Sheila Walker**  
Club Focus Publisher/Admin. **Sheila Walker**  
Dinner Convenor **Sheila Walker**  
Special Events Chair **Pat Dowling**  
Archivist **Pat Dowling**  
Young BPW **Stephanie Comas**  
Social Media **Stephanie Comas**  
Resolutions Chair **Mina Di Domenico**  
Website **Mina Di Domenico**



## BPW Programs Angela McKinnon

*Oh* WELCOME to BPW Brampton Programs line up for our 2023-2024 season.

We are enjoying engaging Guest Speakers this season and hope that you will "Save the Dates" in your calendars to join us to continue to hear these Speakers and the other Events on schedule.

Please feel free to invite a friend to join you for any of the upcoming dates to give them the opportunity to see what BPW Brampton has to offer.



# Save the Dates!

the

### BPW Brampton Dates to Remember



#### SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**Speaker:** Joy Foster, Inspirational Speaker, Podcast Host, Singer and Recording Artist to name a few of this bold, dynamic women's skill set.

**Topic:** What do you see when you look in the mirror?

#### OCTOBER 17, 2023

**Speaker:** Dr. Bisleen Athli, ND is a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Certified Naturopathic Doctor who has founded her own virtual clinic called The Mental Empowerment Centre

**Topic:** From Menarche to Menopause: A Women's Guide to Optimizing Her Hormones.

#### NOVEMBER 10, 2023

BPW 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 21, 2023

**Speakers:** BPW Community Partners  
**Topics:** This is a chance for our chosen Community Partners to discuss how they impact the community and utilize the donation funds they receive from BPW Brampton.

**Community Partners include:**

Hope 24/7 - Report from Carrie Campbell  
Family Life Resource Centre, Honeychurch - Melody Watson  
Victim Services of Peel - Sarah Rogers  
Wellspring Chinguacousy - Kim McDermott  
St. Louise Outreach Centre & Food Bank - Pearl Folders,  
Board Vice President

#### DECEMBER 12, 2023 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of December)

Evening Hosted by BPW Brampton Member Iris Diegel & David Nava at their Home, Catered Dinner & Christmas Celebration!

**Topics:** To Be Determined

• Opportunity for Members and Guests to Give Donations to: St. Louise Outreach Centre & Food Bank of Food Items; Blankets; Personal Care Products, etc.

#### JANUARY 16, 2024

**Speakers:** Panel Discussion of the Government of Ontario's Bill 112, the Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023, which came into effect June 8, 2023. This legislation will dissolve Peel Region and make Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon stand-alone as independent cities.

**Speakers:** To Be Determined

**Topic:** Panel Discussion of changes affecting Brampton.

#### FEBRUARY 20, 2024: International Theme Meeting

**Speaker:** Jill Knowles, CFP, CIM, CFDS - Senior Wealth Advisor, Portfolio Manager for Scotia Wealth Management; and, Jill will share her lifetime experience in Tanzania, Africa, which included a Mount Kilimanjaro climb and a significant coaching and volunteer component. The volunteer component supported The Dare Women's Foundation, to build a shelter in Arusha and help empower women with starting their own businesses to support themselves. Jill describes her incredible journey about empowerment, transformation, supporting women, as well as personal growth and leadership.

• International Theme Honouring BPW Clubs Worldwide  
• Celebrating BPW International Night with our Traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony

#### MARCH 19, 2024: BPW Brampton 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting

**Speaker:** Dr. Justine Blainey-Broker is a Chiropractor, a wife, a mother of two and a warrior for health and wellness. She is an active community volunteer, working with Excelsiors Lacrosse and Brampton Women's Hockey. Dr. Blainey-Broker is also a popular motivational speaker at schools, York University, local businesses and charities. She believes that everyone deserves a healthcare team that focuses on prevention, optimal health and open communication.

**Topic:** The Aging Brain and How to Keep It Healthy!

#### APRIL 16, 2024: Resolutions

**Speaker:** Mina Di Domenico  
**Topic:** Given the timing of when Resolutions are ready, there will be two "virtual" meetings for 2024. Mina will present the results from April 16th Focus on Provincial Resolutions submitted by Clubs across the Province, and May 7th Focus on Federal Resolutions submitted by Clubs across Canada.

#### APRIL 19, 2024:

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

#### MAY 21, 2024:

BPW Brampton Elections & Annual General Meeting  
**Speaker:** Linda Ford, BPW Brampton President  
**Topic:** Elections & Annual General Meeting. Come Out and Support BPW Brampton and Be Part in its Direction. Consider Being on the Executive!

#### JUNE 4, 2024: June Social

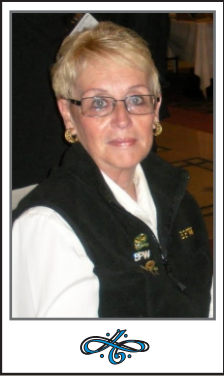
Our Famous June Social - Invite a Guest!  
Location and More Information to Follow!

#### JUNE 17, 2024

26th Annual Ladies Charity Golf Tournament  
Glen Eagle Golf Club, 15731 Regional Rd. 50,  
Caledon, ON L7E 3H9.  
More Details to Follow!

- GOLDEN HORSESHOE AND SOUTHWEST DISTRICTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Saturday, October 21, 2023, Kitchener
- FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024: International Women's Day
- PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 2024 - Virtual Meeting Saturday, June 15, 2024
- PROGRAMS MEETING FOR 2024-2025: Tuesday, July 9, 2024: Suggestions for Speakers for Next Season are welcome! Please contact Programs Chair to add your voice.
- BPW CONVENTION 2024: August 8 to August 12, 2024
- WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: October
- SMALL BUSINESS MONTH: October
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024: World Food Day
- PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 2025 - Saturday, June 14, 2025  
BPW Brampton are Hosts for this "in person" conference





**BPW Brampton  
New Member**  
Barbara Hore

**WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER**

Rianna Ramesar

*We* are pleased to welcome Rianna to our Club as a Student Member.

Rianna is currently a student seeking part time work. She is keenly interested in becoming a contributing part of our community and is focused on our Club's core values. She defines herself as a feminist and an inspiring business professional.

We offer her a very warm welcome to our Club and look forward to a long relationship with her.



**Special Events** Pat Dowling

*A*fter missing three years of our **Annual Charity Ladies Golf Tournament**, we were so excited to be able to hold it once again in 2023.

On Monday, June 19, 2023 we held our **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Ladies Golf Tournament** in memory of Janet Brousseau. It was held for the first time at Glen Eagle Golf Course and it was a very special day! We had 108 golfers, 140 ladies for dinner, table vendors, hole and corporate sponsors along with many volunteers. We were very fortunate to have Scotiabank participate once again with their Scotiabank Team Community Program sponsored by the Highway 10 & Bovaird Drive branch who donated \$3,000.00 to our event.

We are very pleased to announce that our club raised \$10,700.00 and with Scotia's donation we raised a total of \$13,700.00! Our Community Partners for this event were Salvation Army/Honeychurch, Victim Services of Peel and Wellspring Chinguacousy.

*Many thanks to all of our supporters!*



**Provincial Report**  
Barbara Hore



\* **RESOLUTIONS WRITING COMMITTEE** - This is a new committee that has been struck to assist clubs with the Resolution process. All the club has to do is share their ideas, their background information and leave the actual writing of the Resolution to the committee. The purpose of this is to encourage more clubs to come forward with Resolutions and ease the challenge of writing them. Heather Ellis is the V.P. Resolution for BPW Ontario.

\* **GOLDEN HORSESHOE AND SOUTHWEST DISTRICTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** - We are now **SOLD OUT** for this meeting which will be held Saturday, October 21, 2023 at the Borealis Grille & Bar in Kitchener. The meeting is from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. It includes a Business Meeting, Lunch, Guest Speaker, Draws, and Raffles.

\* **PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 2024** - Virtual Meeting to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

\* **PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 2025** - BPW Brampton will be the hosts for this "in person" conference. The date will be Saturday, June 14, 2025. We will soon be looking for volunteers for our committee.



We are pleased to collaborate once again with the **Canadian Progress Club for the Meat/Seafood Drive**. We sold a total of 43 cases of food and our recipient will be Ste. Louise Foodbank.



Next up is our **29<sup>th</sup> Progressive Charity Euchre Event on Friday, November 10, 2023**

at the Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club Bramalea (The Scottish Centre). Tickets go on sale on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. This will be a catered event and as a result the

ticket price is now \$40.00 each. We are in need of prizes so please bring to our October meeting or let us know to arrange for pick-up. We still need to purchase desserts and sundry items like coffee, plates, serviettes etc. so we are looking for cash donations to help us with this. Ste. Louise Foodbank who is our recipient from this event truly need our support especially right before Christmas. We are looking for volunteers that night as well so please let myself or Barb know if you can attend and help.

We will also be participating in the **Christmas Cookie Drive alongside the Canadian Progress Club** with more details to follow.

*Many thanks BPW Brampton for being so committed to our Community Partners!*



**Humane Society**

*T*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  
(905) 458-5800

**BPW Brampton**  
**Member Feature** Mina Di Domenico

**Patrizia Teresa Prez**



Patrizia Teresa Prez went by many names. Around our circle of friends she was Pat, Patricia, Patty P, Patsy Prez, and to some of us, Kramer, like Kramer from Seinfeld.

Patricia held her family as the most important thing in her life. She held many roles as wife, mother, daughter, caregiver, sister, sister-in-law, cousin, aunt, godmother, entrepreneur,

colleague, advocate, and to me, a dear friend.

I met Patricia over 30 years ago at the Toronto Business and Professional Women's Club through a mutual BPW friend Dr. Doris Guyatt. At that time, Patricia was working for the provincial government and busy with wedding plans. After joining BPW, she was recruited into joining the board. While Patricia held several Executive positions on the board, including President, it was at the Advocacy and Resolutions Committee that we became fast friends. Over the years, we participated in numerous conferences and conventions. In 1996, Patricia was part of the BPW Canada's Young delegation team at the International Congress in Venice, Italy. Patricia was also a Canadian delegate at the UN Counsel on the Status of Women in NYC. She loved being with her BPW sisters locally, and around the world.

In between marrying the love of her life Bruno, raising two beautiful young men Andrew and Jason, running a household, working, volunteering, she found some time to have fun with "The Tribe."

Patricia's company lit up a room. She would always show up to a get together with something out of the ordinary. For example, at our game nights, she would bring a first aid kit knowing certain games were going to get out of control. At our BBQs and yoga retreats she would come decked out in a funny hat or outfit. She had a way of telling a story that would leave us in stitches. Besides the humour, she had a profound way of reminding us of how special our time was together. At an outdoor birthday event during the pandemic, she stopped everyone from talking and said, "take this all in, this moment, and

remember how special it is." Besides the crazy antics and profound moments at get togethers, Patricia would call on the way to the grocery store to see if you needed anything. She was always checking in.

For me, she was a true friend. We were different in our approaches; we appreciated one another's point of view coming from love and truth. We would start the day by talking every morning between 6 and 6:30 am. This continued while she was in the hospital. We had very frank conversations on how we saw the world and debated many things. For example, when I was dating, she was very protective. Patricia always wanted to meet the guy I was dating, and always, always shared her opinions on what she thought of my choices. Sometimes she would say "What were you thinking?," "Are you kidding me?," "leave this one at the curb." Always the protective sister. Besides dating advice, she was a pillar of strength for me often providing much comic relief from life's crazy experiences. At the end of the day, we would connect again. I still laugh when I think of our conversations.

Patricia was kind. I learned from her, that kindness consists of loving people more than they deserve.

As much as she loved being with us, her heart remained with her family. She would get excited about family events. Patricia loved her hometown in Italy and loved spending time and laughing with her cousin Moreno and his family.

During our last conversation, she reflected on the fun experiences we had with BPW and the get togethers with The Tribe.

She touched so many lives.

I'm going to miss you Patricia. You will always be in my heart.

You're not here Patricia Prez, but your presence lingers in the shadows.

You don't see what I see, but I hear you laughing with me when I laugh.

You don't know what I feel, but I feel you, feeling with me.

Rest in peace my friend.





## BPW Ontario Annual General Meeting 2023 Resolutions Outcome Mina Di Domenico



At the June 10, 2023 Virtual Annual General Meeting, Mina Di Domenico and Stephanie Comas represented the BPW Brampton Club as delegates. The following Resolutions were discussed, debated, voted on and carried:

- Sexual Violence Against Women in Post Secondary Schools
- Providing Affordable Housing for Women in Ontario

The next BPW Ontario Annual General Meeting is taking place virtually on June 8, 2024. BPW Brampton is hosting the June 15, 2025 event. Stay tuned for more information on how to get involved with the organizing committee.

### BPW Canada AGM

Nearly 40 BPW Canada members from across the country attended the 2023 online Annual General Meeting on Saturday, August 12, 2023. There were 23 Club Delegates plus 8 Board Officers debating 8 resolutions, 2 commendations, and financials.

Mina Di Domenico was the BPW Brampton delegate for this virtual meeting and had two votes on behalf of Brampton members. The event attendees also received updates on key priorities for the term: Reproductive Rights and Justice, Anti-Human Sex Trafficking, and IDEAS programming.

The following resolutions were discussed, debated, and voted on and carried:

- Support to Add Non-State Torture to the Criminal Code of Canada submitted by North Toronto and seconded by BPW Brampton.
- Women's Access to Health Services and Health Education through Technology submitted by BPW Brampton and seconded by BPW London.
- National Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Standards for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access submitted by BPW London and seconded by BPW Bowmanville.
- Improving the Reproductive Health Services Process Across Canada moved by BPW London and seconded by BPW Moncton.
- Supporting Access to Abortion and Other Reproductive Services Across Canada moved by BPW London and seconded by BPW Moncton.
- Updated Health Related Risks and Consequences of Alcohol Use and Abuse in Women submitted by BPW Selkirk and seconded by BPW London.
- Supporting Education for Girls and Women in Afghanistan submitted by BPW Online Club and seconded by BPW Brampton.
- Workplace Harassment in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police moved and seconded by BPW Edmonton club delegates.

Commendations for Lisa LaFlamme from BPW Hastings and Prince Edward County and Senator Julie Miville-Dechéne from BPW Montreal were accepted.

Mina Di Domenico is a member of the Reproductive Rights and Justice Committee and the BPW Canada Advocacy and Resolution Committee.

All BPW members are invited to attend next year's BPW Canada Convention in Moncton, N.B. August 8-11, 2024, at the Crown Plaza Hotel. More information will be available on the [bpwbrampton.com](http://bpwbrampton.com) website.

Want to learn more about advocacy? Visit the BPW Brampton website at [bpwbrampton.com](http://bpwbrampton.com). Interested in joining the Advocacy and Resolutions Committee? Reach out to Mina Di Domenico at the next meeting.





# BPW Brampton 25th Annual Ladies Charity Golf Tournament June 19, 2023 Glen Eagle Golf Club, Caledon, ON

*Photo Gallery*



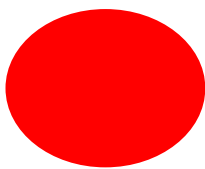
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## BPW Brampton Club Focus



*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.**



**Nelia De Sousa**

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