



Club Focus

WINTER 2023

Club Focus Highlights

- President's Message
- 2023-2024 BPW Brampton Executive
- BPW Programs
- Save the Dates* • Dates to Remember
- Provincial Report
- Special Events: Euchre * Golf * Meat Drive
- Kiva International Project
- BPW Resolutions & By-Laws Updates
- BPW *Christmas Social Photo Gallery*
- Humane Society
- BPW Members Business Card Directory



BPW Brampton Mailing Address
 333 Gooseberry Street
 Orangeville, ON L9W 5B9


Phone Contact
 Pat Dowling
 416-854-8863

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



BPW Brampton President's Message

Linda Ford



"In this world it's not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich. Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most. There is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving."
 (Unknown Author)

As the holidays and Christmas approach the above quote truly epitomizes the spirit of BPW Brampton. I am constantly aware of all the good work we do, the people we support, the friendships that are made and the care we take in what we do.

As most membership organizations struggle to exist, we are blessed to have a stable and growing membership sharing new ideas and a renewed energy.

Looking back at 2023, we have had many accomplishments and successes:

- We continue to support our Community Partners through fundraising initiatives.
 - ✓ Honeycureh Women's Shelter
 - ✓ Wellspring Chinguacousy Cancer Support Centre
 - ✓ Hope 24/7 (Rape Crisis Centre)
 - ✓ Victim Services of Peel
 - ✓ Ste. Louise Outreach and Food Bank
- We had 2 successful Progressive Euchre Fundraisers, BPW Charity Golf Tournament, Book Sales, Meat Drives & Cookie Drives.
- We enjoyed wonderful meetings with exceptional speakers and welcomed many guests.
- Reinstated our Sheridan College Bursary dedicated to a candidate in a SIEM program.

- We initiated an International Program by making two micro loans through KIVA to support women in developing countries.
- We brought forward a Provincial Resolution and an International Resolution.
- By-Laws and Regulations were updated.
- Elected a full slate for our Board of Directors.

Looking forward at 2024; we have many opportunities ahead of us. New ideas, new events, new members, new chances.

Oh Santa – we have been very good this year – so on our BPW Christmas Wish List is:

- More community awareness about what we do.
- Significant growth in membership & engagement.
- Attraction of Corporate Sponsors and Donations to elevate the success of our events.
- That we may affect change at various levels of Government that positively effect women and children.
- Provide networking and support to women in business.
- Be a vehicle for education and learning.
- Attract young women through our Young BPW initiatives.
- Recognize our international affairs initiatives.
- Support our membership through support and comradeship.

And Oh Santa – we want to have a little fun too!
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, Joyous Holidays, and a Happy New Year!





BPW BRAMPTON EXECUTIVE 2023-2024

President Linda Ford
Interim Past President Carol Kollar
1st Vice President Angela McKinnon
2nd Vice President Amanda Graham-Rowe
Theasurer 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 Conve nor Sheila Walker
Special Events Chair Pat Dowling
Archivist Pat Dowling
Young BPW Rianna Ramesar
Social Media Vacant
Resolutions/ByLaws Chair Mina Di Domenico
International Program Amanda Graham-Rowe
Website Mina Di Domenico



BPW Programs Angela McKinnon

*W*ELCOME 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!

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 Attli, 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 L6T4H9 905.458.7718

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Speakers: BPW Community Partners
Topic: 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 Chingua Cousy - Kim McDermott
 St. Louise Outreach Centre & Food Bank - Pearl Foldes,
 Board Vice President

DECEMBER 12, 2023 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL (2nd Tuesday of December)
 Evening Hosted by BPW Brampton Member Iris Diegel & David Nava at their Home, Catered Dinner & Christmas Celebration!
Topic: 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: Sandra Sharpe, Certified Municipal Manager III, Qualified Mediator, Trained Facilitator, Government Relations, and Communications Professional, City of Caledon — AND — Carrie Perreval, Chair, Downtown Brampton Business Improvement Area (BIA), Owner of the Brampton Academy of Martial Arts, Downtown Brampton
Topic: Dissolution of Peel

FEBRUARY 20, 2024: International Theme Meeting

Speaker: Jill Knowles, CFP, CIM, CFPD - Senior Wealth Advisor, Portfolio Manager for Scotia Wealth Management; and, Jill will share her life time experience in Tanzania, Africa. **Topic:** Jill went on a trip of a life time to 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 77th 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 Excelsior 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 L6T4H9 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 L7E3H9.
 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 21, 2025
 BPW Brampton are Hosts for this "in person" conference



Provincial Report

Barbara Hore
District Director
BPW Golden Horseshoe
Southwest Ontario



On October 21, 2023 BPW BRAMPTON hosted a successful District Meeting for the Golden Horseshoe District comprising of Brampton, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines and the Southwest District of London, Cambridge and Kitchener met for our annual meeting. There were five clubs present with 16 members and 3 guests. There were a number of raffles, a 50/50 draw and a

donation from Maide Yazar from the sales of BPW emblems.

District Director, Barbara Hore for both districts led delegates and guests through a fun-filled, informative, and engaging meeting.

BPW Brampton, President Linda Ford warmly welcomed everyone. BPW Canada Past-President, Doris Hall shared messages from BPW Canada, President Angie Godin and Marc Len, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth. BPW Ontario, President Marlene McKinnon was present and provided an update on provincial matters.

Dani Bartlett, the London Club President was our Guest Speaker. Dani is a welder by trade and a staunch activist for women in non-traditional roles. She shared an inspirational speech sharing how she got into a non-traditional role and her evolution and involvement with various advocacy committees. Her speech was peppered with beautiful quotes, insights, and a call to action for all of us. We are very grateful to her as she stepped in to cover for our original guest speaker who had to cancel last minute.

Norma Yau from our London Club and Reproductive Rights and Justice Committee (RRaJ) Chair, gave a presentation on her Reproductive Rights and Justice Program. She shared the genesis of this committee and the work to date.

Each Club President gave a brief summary of their club's activities and successes.

I had the privilege of presenting a special carving to our Ontario President Marlene McKinnon on behalf of the Ontario BPW Board.

Next year's meeting in October 2024 will be hosted by BPW Kitchener.

My thanks goes out to Mina who acted as our Secretary, Pat who organized all of the raffles, Carol Kollar, Elaine Mortensen (Kitchener) and Lin Buxton (Cambridge) who assisted in the location of the venue, Nancy Broerse (Niagara Falls) for her chocolate bags and raffle gifts, and Jocelyne (Niagara Falls) who was our timekeeper. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Norma Yau (London) who just helped out in so many ways.

We were particularly thrilled that Marlene McKinnon, our Ontario Board President was in attendance.

OTHER ITEMS

I recently attended a Niagara Falls meeting when they presented a cheque in the amount of \$10,000 to Community Crew an organization that provides lunches to school children.

They also offer a bursary of \$500 to encourage women into SIEM careers.

Our Cambridge Club recently held a Human Trafficking Workshop. They are now distributing posters to bring attention to the Human Trafficking problem in their community. They also will be hosting a Christmas Social Potluck and will be collecting for the local foodbank.

Our London Club is offering education under their Reproductive Rights and Justice project by way of podcasts and seminars.



Special Events Pat Dowling

We had a successful Meat/Seafood Drive held in conjunction with the Canadian Progress Club this past October. We sold 43 cases of food and raised



\$1,000.00 for St. Louise Foodbank. On November 10, 2023 we held our 29th Progressive Charity Euc hre Event at the Glasgow

Rangers Supporters Club Bramalea (The Scottish Centre). We had 72 players with a catered meal and had a wonderful evening. There was a lot of cheer, good fun and we raised \$2,200.00 once again for St. Louise Foodbank that so need our support at this time of year.

We are scheduled for our 30th Progressive Charity Euc hre Event on Friday, April 19, 2024 at the Scottish Centre.



We participated in the Christmas Cookie Drive and do not have the results back at this time.

We have booked our 26th Annual Charity Ladies Golf Tournament to be held on June 17, 2024 at Glen Eagle Golf Course with more details to follow at the beginning of next year.



Thank you to all of our BPW Brampton members for always stepping up when needed to ensure we can continue our very worthwhile support of our Community Partners!



Amanda Graham-Rowe,
2nd Vice President and
International Affairs Chair

Kiva is an international nonprofit with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive. Kiva provides fair access to capital to create economic opportunity and financial stability for the mselves and their families. Through Kiva's work, women and girls can pay for tuition, women can start businesses, farmers are able to invest in equipment and families can afford needed emergency care.

While individual lenders are repaid the money they contribute to a borrower's loan, they do not receive any additional interest on the loan. It is a philanthropic effort, though the potential to relent after a loan has been repaid has far more impact than a donation.

This year, BPW Brampton has selected and funded two loans of \$250 U.S. each through Kiva as part of our efforts to support Women internationally who are also positively impacting the communities in which they live. Details of our current loans are below.

Nazava Water Filters - Indonesia

Expanding the production and sales of water filters for safe drinking water in Indonesia.

Nazava Water Filters was founded in Indonesia in 2009 to provide safe drinking water to lower-income households, by producing and selling affordable, yet high-quality household water filters. To date, Nazava has provided 265,000 water filters to low-income communities.



Nazava is expecting high demand in Indonesia and needs sufficient inventory. This loan will help pre-order 40,000 full systems and will supply an additional 200,000 people with access to safe drinking water.

BPW Brampton has funded \$250 U.S. of the fully funded \$50,000. This loan is expected to be repaid by June 2024.

Sustainable Artisan Development Project - Peru

Providing training, market access, and higher incomes for 250+ artisans in Peru.

Artisans in Peru, particularly those in indigenous communities, face limited economic opportunities and struggle to earn sustainable income because the industry operates in an informal and unregulated manner, often leading to inconsistent product quality, inefficiencies, and lack of resources. Women artisans face additional challenges related to balancing their craftwork with their domestic responsibilities.

This Nothem Peruvian company merges smart design practices with social innovation to create handmade goods in partnership with local craft communities. They help establish businesses and enable a home-work economy, allowing women to continue their work while fulfilling their caregiving roles. These services assist in bringing a 25% increase in extra monthly household earnings for artisans living in extreme poverty..

Still in the fundraising stage, BPW Brampton has funded \$250 U.S. of the requested \$50,000 loan. The loan repayment is estimated to be over 26 months.





BPW Resolutions & By Laws Updates Mina Di Domenico

2023 BRIEFS TO GOVERNMENT

The provincial and federal briefs are available on the BPW Brampton website under the Advocacy tab. The briefs contain resolutions passed at the June Provincial AGM and the August National AGM and include directives to urge the provincial or federal governments, as appropriate specific ministries to act. Briefs are shared with all ministries and the opposition parties. Feel free to print the briefs and meet/share with your local MP and MPP.

2024 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions Committee is conducting research on the "Inclusion of Femicide to Canada's Criminal Code." If you are interested in joining the Resolutions Committee on the research and the formulation of this resolution, please contact Mina Di Domenico. Our meetings take place virtually and on Tuesday mornings. The provincial resolution deadline is January 31, 2024 and the national resolution deadline is March 1, 2024.

2024 CALL FOR COMMENDATIONS

Would you like to recognize an individual and/or organization that supports our mission and mandate and helps move our agenda forward? If so, please forward your nomination to Mina Di Domenico by December 21, 2023.

UPDATED BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The updated BPW Brampton By-Laws are being reviewed by BPW Canada Resolution and By-Law Chair Colleen Babiuik-Ilkiw.

The Club Regulations were passed by Brampton's Board of Directors on November 7, 2023.

These documents can be found on the BPW Brampton website in the Members Area. You require a password to access this area.

Thank you to everyone who reviewed, discussed, debated, and approved these important documents.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MY VOICE, MY CHOICE

The My Voice, My Choice is a grassroots organization that had a singular goal: to lobby for changes to the way section 486.4 of the Criminal Code of Canada is applied to victim-complainants of sexual offences.

Hundreds of emails were sent out to parliamentarians across Canada to bring awareness to how the law criminalize victims. Countless meetings were had with Ministers, MPs, and Senators to share their experiences with how the system designed to protect victims had failed victims. Morell Andrews was invited to speak at the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights as it studied Obligations to Victims of Crime in October of 2022. It took a year to amend section 486.4.

On October 26th, 2023 Bill S-12 received Royal Assent and now no victim-complainant can be unwillingly silenced due to an unwanted publication ban.

This organization is being nominated by BPW Prince Edward-Hastings Club for a national commendation.

NOVEMBER 30th ANNUAL DAY OF ACTION for EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE ELCC

On November 30th, the Annual Day of Action for ELCC, childcare advocates called for immediate and proper government action to address the shortage of qualified early

childhood educators, which is key toward improving the availability of licensed programs. Also, the Day of Action backed up the childcare movement's demand for public capital funds to finance the growth of not-for-profit and public childcare.

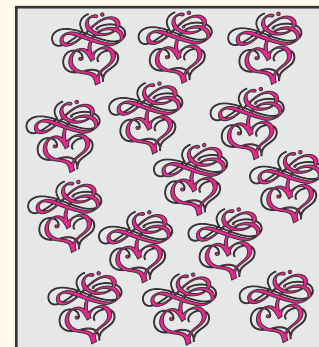
"The federal government is fulfilling its promise to bring down parent fees for licensed childcare making programs much more affordable for those who have spaces," says Childcare Now Executive Director Moma Ballantyne. "But fee reductions do not help the thousands of families for whom there are no programs."

The November 30th, Annual Day of Action is pushing for equitable access which can be realized only if the federal, provincial, and territorial governments put in place a comprehensive expansion plan for more not-for-profit and public childcare, and that plan must include specific and immediate improvements to the wages, benefits, pensions and working conditions of those who work in the sector.

DECEMBER 6th NATIONAL DAY of REMEMBRANCE and ACTION on VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

It has been over 30 years since the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989). This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led Parliament to designate December 6 as The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. On December 6, we remember:

- Geneviève Bergeron
- Hélène Colgan
- Nathalie Croteau
- Barbara Daigneault
- Anne-Marie Edward
- Maud Havimick
- Maryse Laganière
- Maryse Leclair
- Anne-Marie Lemay
- Sonia Pelletier
- Michèle Richard
- Annie St-Améault
- Annie Turotte
- Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz



The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. It is also a time to act.

Achieving a Canada free from gender-based violence requires everyone living in this country to educate themselves and their families and communities on gender-based violence, centre the voices of survivors in our actions and speak up against harmful behaviours the victims of this tragedy on December 6:

Wear a white ribbon.

Observe a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m.

Attend a vigil in your community.

Follow National Day of Remembrance on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.

Throughout the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence (from November 25 to December 10), add your voice to the conversation and share the ways you are being part of the solution to end gender-based violence. Use the hashtag #16Days.





BPW Brampton



Christmas Social Photo Gallery



M MORTGAGE ARCHITECTS
 Brokerage #12728

Pat Dowling
 Agent #M08003138
 Mortgage Agent
 pat.dowling@mtgarc.ca

- First Time Home Buyers
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Catherine Rivera
 Board President

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 stelouisefoodbank85@hotmail.ca

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 Off Hours: (416) 704-0946

Humane Society

The Humane Society is always in need of old towels, bed sheets, blankets, etc. used for the comfort of cats and dogs in the care. Please drop off donations of these items to the following Brampton location:
475 Chrysler Drive, Brampton, ON L6S 6G3
(905) 458-580





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.



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