



The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton Caledon

# Club Focus

## Club Focus Highlights

President's Message  
2024-2025 Executive  
BPW Programs

*Save the Dates* • Dates to Remember

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BPW Resolutions, By-Laws & Public Affairs Update  
Holiday Social Photo Gallery  
Humane Society  
BPW Members Business Card Directory

**BPW Brampton Caledon 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*

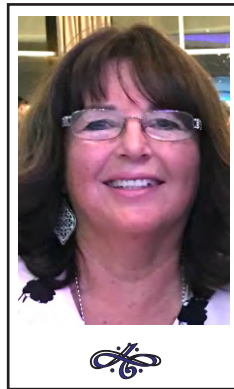
**MEETINGS LOCATION  
BY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**MEETINGS HELD  
THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING  
AS REQUIRED**

## WINTER 2025

**BPW Brampton Caledon  
President's Message** Linda Ford



# We Do Good Work ♥

*A*s 2024 comes to an end and we start a new in 2025, I write to you with a complete sense of optimism and thankfulness.

As we started out our Fall Program, we launched our expansion into Caledon and an amendment to our club name now known as BPW Brampton Caledon.

Our meetings from September to December have been well attended and there has been an energy and vibe in the room that is palpable.

*BPW Brampton Caledon does good work!!!*

We are extremely proud to be the largest club in Ontario!

We continue to support our Community Partners through our fundraising activities.

Our 2024 Annual Golf Tournament raised \$18,000.00 which was \$15,000 raised by the golf proceeds and an additional \$3,000 contributed by ScotiaBank's Community Program.

We were delighted to be able to share proceeds with:

- Wellspring Chinguacousy
- Honeychurch Women's Shelter
- Victim Services of Peel
- Caledon Community Services
- Ste. Louise Food Bank and Outreach Centre

We continue to advocate for impactful change through our Resolutions process that have been passed and presented to various levels of Government. Step by step, we aim to uplift and improve life for women.

BPW Brampton Caledon ended the year with a catered holiday party at the home of Iris and David Nava. An enchanted decorated venue for good food, great conversations, and of course, a little Secret Santa – and gift stealing game. Donations were also very generous for The Food Bank, Children's Toys, and Seniors in Need. We can always count on the generosity of our Members and friends.

Ste. Louise Foodbank and Outreach Centre received an additional \$7,500.00 combined from BPW Brampton Caledon, The Canadian Progress Club, and the Nava Family.

As we look towards 2025 there is still a great deal of work to be done! We are preparing to add new fundraising initiatives within our club.

BPW Brampton Caledon is also hosting our Provincial Conference on Saturday, September 13th at The Brampton Golf Club. We are looking for support in the way of attendance, but more importantly, we are looking for Corporate Sponsorships. There are many levels of sponsorship, both small and large.

On a more personal note, BPW Brampton Caledon makes me extremely proud both as a member and leader. I appreciate each one of you and wish only the best for the future.

BPW Brampton Caledon has a great future – and we do good work!

Wishing you all the best for a healthy, successful, and accomplished 2025!

# BPW Brampton Caledon Club Focus



## BPW BRAMPTON CALEDON EXECUTIVE 2024-2025

President **Linda Ford**  
Past President **Carol Kollar**  
1st Vice President **Amanda Graham-Rowe**  
2nd Vice President **Nelia De Sousa**  
Treasurer **Pat Dowling**  
Club Secretary **Mina Di Domenico**  
Corresponding Secretary **Sue Perlman**  
Membership Chair **Barbara Hore**  
Programs Chair **Angela McKinnon**  
Publicity & Public Relations **Sheila Walker**  
Young BPW **Rianna Ramesar**  
Resolutions/By-Laws/  
Public Affairs **Mina Di Domenico**  
International Affairs **Amanda Graham-Rowe**  
Personal Development **Nelia De Sousa**  
Bursary Committee **Amanda Graham-Rowe,**  
**Angela McKinnon,**  
Archivist **Pat Dowling**  
Special Events Chair **Pat Dowling**  
Club Focus Publisher/Admin. **Sheila Walker**  
Dinner Convenor **Sheila Walker**  
Website/Social Media **Mina Di Domenico**



## BPW Programs Angela McKinnon

*Happy New Year!* As we step into 2025, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the journey ahead. This past year, we have grown as a community, supported one another, and embraced opportunities to learn, connect, and empower.

As your Program Chair, I want to curate meaningful events and initiatives that inspire and uplift. This year, we'll continue to celebrate the strength, creativity, and resilience that each of you brings to our group. Together, we will explore new ideas, foster deeper connections, and make an even greater impact in our community.

Stay tuned for an exciting calendar of programs and events designed to enrich our minds, nourish our spirits, and strengthen our bonds. Your input and participation will be at the heart of all we do, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts and ideas.

Here's to a year of growth, collaboration, and success! May 2025 bring you joy, health, and fulfillment in all that you pursue.



# Save Dates!

the

### BPW Brampton Dates to Remember



#### SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

**Social Event with Brief General Meeting:** Join Us for Cocktails & Conversations promoting BPW Brampton Caledon. Members and Guests are always welcome!  
Location: Villa Caledon Inn, 16626 Airport Road, Caledon East, ON L7C 1W9

#### SEPTEMBER 23, 2024: Personal Development Workshop

**Guest Speaker:** Sandra Sharpe, Certified Municipal Manager III, Trained Mediator and Facilitator, Government Relations, Public Policy, and Communications Professional. In this workshop, Sandra will share proven mediation tips and tools to help navigate difficult conversations and how to move from conflict to collaborative problem-solving.  
Location: Virtual Meeting  
Topic: Navigating Conflict Conversations Workshop

#### OCTOBER 15, 2024

**Guest Speaker:** Karin Gorgert is a Past President of the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Canada). She has represented BPW Canada as a delegate at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. BPW International is one of the most influential international networks of business and professional women, with affiliates in over 100 countries on five continents.

Location: Vesuvio's Ristorante, 91 George Street South, Brampton, ON L6Y 1P4

Topic: Join us for an evening of learning more about the BPW organization from a provincial, national, North American Caribbean, and International lens.

#### NOVEMBER 19, 2024

**Guest Speaker(s):** Anne Thompson, Sandra Sharpe  
Location: Brampton Flight Centre and Flying Club, 13691 McLaughlin Road, Cheltenham, ON L7C 3L7

Topic: Panel Discussion on Women in Politics. Changes needed to have more Women in Politics.

#### DECEMBER 10, 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of December)

**Holiday Social Event:** Evening Hosted by BPW Member Iris Diegel & David Nava at their home with Catered Turkey Dinner and Holiday Celebrations including Secret Santa Exchange for maximum of \$25.00; Christmas Carolling.  
Location: 1 Royce Avenue, Unit #1, Brampton L6Y 1J4  
Opportunity for Members and Guests to Give Donations to: Ste. Louise Outreach Centre & Food Bank of Food Items; Blankets; Personal Care Products, etc.

#### JANUARY 21, 2025

**Guest Speaker:** Mayor Lisa Post, Town of Orangeville  
Location: Villa Caledon Inn, 16626 Airport Road, Caledon East, ON L7C 1W9

Topic: Municipal Updates.  
More Details to Follow.

#### FEBRUARY 18, 2025: International Theme

**Guest Speaker:** Uzma Aziz Irfan, Executive Director, Malton Women's Council. Uzma is well-known for her passion for bringing the community together and is a TESL Ontario Certified Teacher.

Location: Vesuvio's Ristorante, 91 George Street South, Brampton, ON L6Y 1P4

Topic: To Be Determined

- International Theme Honouring all the BPW Clubs Throughout the World.
- Celebrating BPW International Night with our Traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony

#### MARCH 18, 2025: BPW Brampton 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting

**Guest Speaker:** Anne Marie Hayes, Advocating for Patients  
Location: Brampton Flight Centre and Flying Club, 13691 McLaughlin Road, Cheltenham, ON L7C 3L7  
Topic: Patient Care

#### APRIL 1, 2025: BPW Brampton Caledon Provincial

**Resolutions Meeting**

**Guest Speaker:** Mina Di Domenico

Location: Virtual Meeting

Topic: The Ontario Resolution Package will be sent to Members before the meeting for review and comment. Discussion and voting are taking place.

#### APRIL 8, 2025: BPW Brampton Caledon Federal Resolutions

**Guest Speaker:** Mina Di Domenico

Location: Virtual Meeting

Topic: A virtual meeting will review all Federal resolutions submitted by clubs nationwide. This is the same process as above for the BPW Canada AGM. Feedback from other clubs on our submitted federal resolutions will also be considered. Ongoing updates and refinements will be shared with members as the resolution cycle.

#### APRIL 15, 2025

**Paint Night Social Event:** \$40.00 per person includes class materials with Food and Beverages available to purchase separately as Pay As You Go.

Location: Keltic Rock Pub and Restaurant, 180 Sandalwood Parkway East, Brampton, ON L6Z 1Y4  
More Details to Follow!

#### MAY 20, 2025: Brief BPW Brampton Elections & Annual

**General Meeting.** Come Out and Support BPW Brampton Caledon and Be Part of our Direction. Consider Being on the Executive!

**Guest Speaker:** Tina Haller, Tina is a holistic health and wellness subconscious mind coach specializing in stress and burnout. Tina helps you find balance and peace of mind. She understands the importance of focusing on your well-being and enables you to bridge that gap.

Location: Villa Caledon Inn, 16626 Airport Road, Caledon East, ON L7C 1W9

Topic: Hypnosis, Demystified & Its Rapid Life-Changing Potential

#### JUNE 16, 2025

**Annual Ladies Charity Golf Tournament:** Fundraiser  
Location: Glen Eagle Golf Club, 15731 Regional Rd. 50, Caledon, ON L7E 3H9

More Details to Follow!

#### JUNE 24, 2025

**Social Event:** Our Famous June Social - Invite a Guest!  
Location: Villa Caledon Inn, 16626 Airport Road, Caledon East, ON L7C 1W9

More Details to Follow!

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- BPW INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, NOVEMBER 17 TO 20, 2024
- BPW BRAMPTON CALEDON PROGRAMS PLANNING MEETING FOR 2025-2026: Details to Follow!
- UN CSW69 CONFERENCE, MARCH 10, 2025, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK CITY
- BPW CANADA VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 9, 2025
- BPW ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE: BRAMPTON GOLF CLUB, 7700 KENNEDY ROAD, BRAMPTON, ON L6W 0A1, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025. **BRAMPTON CALEDON CLUB IS HOSTING!**
- BPW ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING FOR THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE AND SOUTHWEST DISTRICTS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025, BETTY'S RESTAURANT, 8901 SODOM ROAD, NIAGARA FALLS L2G 0T4
- WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: October
- SMALL BUSINESS MONTH: October
- SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025: International Women's Day
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025: World Food Day

# BPW Brampton Caledon Club Focus

## Special Events Pat Dowling

**Our Fall Meat/Seafood Drive** in conjunction with the **Canadian Progress Club** raised \$2,000.00 for **Ste. Louise Foodbank**.

As you know, the **November Charity Progress Euchre Event** was unfortunately cancelled due to issues with the Scottish Club. This was our last event planned, however, we did reach out to the ticket holders asking if they would consider donating their \$25.00 ticket cost to Ste. Louise Foodbank as we had no way of raising any funds due to the cancellation. We are very happy to advise that many of the ticket holders did donate their \$25.00 ticket cost and we were able to present a cheque to **Ste. Louise Foodbank in the amount of \$1,000.00**.

Our **Annual Christmas Cookie Drive** was held once again alongside the **Canadian Progress Club** who have been so amazing to work with and we are very honoured to announce that the **Canadian Progress Club along with the BPW Brampton Caledon Club** donated **\$5,000.00** to **Ste. Louise Foodbank**.

Next up is our **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Ladies Charity Golf Tournament** being held at **Glen Eagle Golf Club on Monday, June 16, 2025**. Get ready for another fun filled day!

We are in the midst of applying to the **City of Brampton** for our club to be registered for **volunteering at the Bingo Events at Delta Bingo on Rutherford Road**. We will be looking for volunteers for two hour shifts to enable our club to continue supporting our Community Partners. More details to follow.



## New Members

**Barbara Hore**

**W**elcome to our new members:

**Rayssa Palmer, Barbara Schembri and Nancy Kuemper**

**T**he BPW Brampton Caledon Club extends a warm welcome to these three ladies. They will be inducted at our January meeting. We are certain that you will enjoy your participation with our active and forward-thinking group. Your fresh perspective and new ideas will be most welcome.

As President Linda says,

**We Do Good Work!**

## Provincial District Director's Report

**Barbara Hore**  
District Director  
BPW Golden Horseshoe  
Southwest Ontario



### District Meeting

Our Annual District Meeting was held November 16th in Cambridge this year with the Kitchener/Waterloo club hosting.

Once again, the Golden Horseshoe District (Brampton Caledon & Niagara Falls) and the South West District (Kitchener/Waterloo & London) were well represented.

We had a brief business meeting as this is one of the few opportunities that these members get to meet and exchange thoughts and ideas with their counterparts in other clubs. We enjoyed a robust meeting followed by lunch and then an extremely interesting guest speaker, Geraldine Stafford, the first civilian Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Manager at the Waterloo Regional Police Services. Her passion for empowering young women was quite obvious along with her community-informed approach as a change agent.

We completed the afternoon with a 50/50 draw and a raffle.

The next District Meeting will be held on October 25th, 2025 in Niagara Falls.

My sincere thanks go out to Pat Dowling, Mina Di Domenico and Elaine Mortenson Kitchener/Waterloo Club President for all their help.

### Provincial Conference 2025

Plans continue for the 2025 Provincial Conference being held at the Brampton Golf Club on September 13th. This will be a one day Conference ending with a banquet and the presentation of service awards.

Early in the new year, we will be seeking sponsorship for the Conference. More information will be available early next year.

*I am wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*





## BPW Brampton Caledon International Affairs

Amanda Graham-Rowe



Kiva is a global nonprofit focused on expanding financial access to underserved communities, empowering individuals to create economic opportunity and financial stability. By providing fair access to capital, Kiva helps women and girls afford education, enables women to start businesses, supports farmers with equipment investments, and helps families cover emergency healthcare costs.

Kiva loans are repaid to individual lenders, who do not receive interest, making it a philanthropic effort. However, the ability to relend after repayment magnifies the impact, far beyond a one-time donation.

Since launching this initiative in November 2023, we've funded 6 loans across 6 countries (Congo DRC, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Tajikistan, Peru, and Ecuador) in support of women who are positively impacting their communities. To date, we've loaned a total of \$1,000, with \$535 repaid, allowing us to continue relending and supporting more women.

### Current Loans Highlights:



#### Ana Belen (Ecuador) – \$125

*Loaned: December 2024 | Repayments Expected to Begin: March 2025*

Ana operates a supply rental business for social events, providing custom decorations, delivery, and setup. This loan will help her purchase essential items like tables, chairs, linens, and drinkware,

supporting the growth and expansion of her business.



#### Madina (Tajikistan) – \$125

*Loaned: September 2024 | 6% Repaid*

Madina, an X-ray specialist in a rural village, is seeking funds to upgrade her X-ray machine. The new equipment will provide clearer radiographs, improving diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes for the local community.



#### Sustainable Artisan Development Project (Peru) – \$250

*Loaned: January 2024 | 11% Repaid*

This project provides training, market access, and higher income opportunities for over 250 artisans in northern Peru, many of whom are women from indigenous communities. By

establishing a home-work economy, the project enables artisans to balance their work with caregiving roles, leading to a 25% increase in household earnings for those in extreme poverty.

### Fully Repaid Loans:

#### Kana Group (Congo DRC) – \$100

*Loaned: April 2024 | Fully Repaid: December 2024*  
Helped purchase wholesale boards to supplement initial capital, supporting entrepreneurs in conflict-affected regions with limited opportunities.

#### Gotitas De Esperanza 1 Group (Nicaragua) – \$100

*Loaned: April 2024 | Fully Repaid: November 2024*  
Funded business supplies to empower women through community support and financial training.

#### Nazava Water Filters (Indonesia) – \$250

*Loaned: January 2024 | Fully Repaid: May 2024*  
Contributed to pre-ordering 40,000 water systems, providing safe drinking water to 200,000 people.



## BPW Resolutions, By-Laws Update Mina Di Domenico

### Phenomenal Women

Do you know an inspiring woman in our community who has demonstrated remarkable dedication to uplifting women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals? What makes her a role model to you? What notable impact has she made in the community, and how has she catalyzed positive change? If you'd like to nominate someone, please reach out to me.

### Provincial Resolution Update

One proposed resolution focuses on improving Ontario's Mental Health Act. Suggested enhancements include expanding access to mental health resources and support to reduce the need for hospitalization. This resolution remains a work in progress and continues to evolve through ongoing discussions and input.

### Federal Resolutions Update

We are actively refining three federal-level resolutions proposed by our club:

#### Federal Income Tax Fairness for Single Seniors

A virtual meeting will be held on February 11th to delve into this topic in detail. Please mark your calendar and join us to contribute to the discussion and explore ways to promote tax fairness for single seniors.

#### Criminalizing Coercive Control in Intimate Relationships

This resolution builds on last year's proposal to include femicide as a priority in Canada's Criminal Code. Bill C-332, a Canadian private member's bill, aims to criminalize coercive control—non-physical forms of abuse such as emotional, financial, or psychological manipulation that restricts a partner's independence. Examples include isolating a partner from loved ones, controlling their finances, or instilling fear of violence. Recognizing coercive control as a common precursor to physical violence, the bill seeks to address a critical aspect of domestic abuse.

#### Supporting Afghan Women and Girls

Since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, the rights of women and girls have been systematically erased. They face extreme oppression, including bans on education beyond sixth grade, restrictions on employment, and severe limitations on movement without a male guardian. The Taliban's policies have created the world's most repressive environment for women and girls, necessitating immediate international advocacy and support.

### International Update

In 2023, the BPW Brampton Caledon Club successfully submitted a federal resolution on Women's Access to Health Services and Health Education through Technology. The resolution was adopted at the November BPW International Congress in St. Kitts & Nevis—a significant achievement for the club and a step forward in advocating for women's health globally. For more details, visit the Member's Area on the club's website, where draft resolutions and updates are posted.

### Upcoming Resolution Dates

January 15, 2025: Club members will review and vote on the intent of the provincial resolution.

January 31: Deadline for the club to submit the provincial resolution(s) to BPW Ontario.

February 15: Club members will review and vote on the intent of the three federal resolutions.

March 1: The club's deadline for submitting federal resolutions to BPW Canada.

April 1: A virtual meeting will review all provincial resolutions submitted by clubs across the province. BPW Brampton Caledon Members will discuss, debate, and provide voting directions to club delegates for the BPW Ontario AGM. Feedback from other clubs on our submitted provincial resolutions will also be shared.

April 8: A virtual meeting will review all nationwide federal resolutions clubs submit. This is the same process as above for the BPW Canada AGM. Feedback from other clubs on our submitted federal resolutions will also be considered. Ongoing updates and refinements will be shared with members as the resolution cycle.

### Bylaws & Regulations

Club Bylaws and Regulations are available in the Members Area on the club's website.



### Public Affairs Update

#### **Ontario**

The Ontario government continues to focus on addressing gender-based violence, enhancing support for women's economic empowerment, and promoting leadership opportunities for women and girls. Recent initiatives include funding for violence prevention programs and efforts to address barriers faced by women in the workforce, particularly in STEM and skilled trades. Advocacy groups (\*see below) are also pushing for greater accessibility in reproductive healthcare and affordable childcare, recognizing these as essential for advancing gender equality across the province.

\*In Ontario, several advocacy groups focus on gender equality and women's rights. One key organization is the Gender Equality Coalition of Ontario (GECO), which promotes gender justice through raising awareness, providing resources, and working toward policy change. GECO emphasizes intersectional inclusion and diversity, advocating for gender equality across all genders, races, and abilities.

Another prominent group is the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), which leads campaigns against gender-based violence, including the 16 Days of Activism. The OFL advocates for women's rights to safety and equity, focusing on issues such as technology-facilitated sexual violence.

#### **Canada**

At the federal level, the Canadian government is advancing its National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, with new funding allocated to shelters, prevention initiatives, and services for survivors. Additionally, discussions around Bill C-332, which seeks to criminalize coercive control in intimate relationships, highlight ongoing efforts to strengthen protections for women in abusive situations.

#### **International**

Canada has been playing a significant role in advancing gender equality internationally, notably through its leadership in the United Nations (UN) and its engagement in global initiatives to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Canadian government, mainly through Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), has been instrumental in advancing SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reducing inequalities), focusing on initiatives such as gender-based violence prevention, enhancing the capacity of women's organizations, and supporting policies for economic and social inclusion of marginalized groups. Canada has also significantly contributed to implementing the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and international partnerships to support gender equality.

The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) will occur from March 10 to 21, 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This session will primarily focus on reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, marking its 30th anniversary. Discussions will assess progress on gender equality, identify existing challenges, and strategize on actions to enhance women's empowerment and realize the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This review is significant, as it will guide future efforts toward achieving gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

### Website & Social Media Update

If you missed a meeting, don't worry! All agendas, minutes, and financial reports are available on the club's website under the Members Area. Click the white button on the top right-hand corner of the screen to access them. Earlier this year, the club's website received a significant update, including software upgrades, refreshed content, and a design that aligns with the BPW Ontario website.

This program year, the focus has shifted to enhancing the club's social media strategy. I created a comprehensive strategy document and shared it with the executive team. The committee is now working on establishing norms, calendars, and operating procedures to guide our efforts. Thank you to Angela and Nelia for volunteering to be part of the committee.

BPW Ontario has updated the password for its Member's Area. Please visit the club's website and download the latest 'Access to BPW Member's Area' document for details.







BPW Brampton Caledon



# Holiday Social Photo Gallery





# BPW Brampton Caledon Club Focus

## Amy Thompson

Mortgage Agent, Level 2  
 #M17003235  
 905-220-9145  
 amy@oacmortgage.com

## Pat Dowling

Mortgage Agent, Level 1  
 #M08003138  
 905-789-9198 x 203  
 pat.dowling@mtgarc.com



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**Nancy Kuemper**

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# IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Amanda Graham-Rowe, CPA, CA, CFP, CLU  
 Executive Financial Consultant  
 (416) 540-5654  
 amanda.graham-rowe@ig.ca  
 www.amandagraham-rowe.com



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**IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT** GRAHAM-ROWE & ASSOCIATES

## 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) 458-580**



## Ste. Louise Outreach Centre of Peel

32 Haggert Ave. North,  
 Brampton, Ontario L6X 1Y3



We Aim to Please  
 at Ste. Louise

Catherine Rivera  
 Board President

www.stelouisefoodbank.com  
 stelouisefoodbank85@hotmail.com

Tel: (905) 454-2144  
 Off Hours: (416) 704-0946



# BPW Brampton Caledon Club Focus



*The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton Caledon 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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