

Club Focus Highlights

President's Message
2025-2026 Executive
BPW Programs

Save the Dates • Dates to Remember

Special Events: Golf, Fall Meat Drive,
Christmas Cookie Drive
Ontario 79th Annual Conference &
Annual General Meeting Report
Membership Update
Provincial Report
Ways To Give Supporting our Club
BPW Resolutions Update
International Affairs Kiva Update
Humane Society
BPW Members Business Card Directory

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Email

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Website

www.bpwbrampton.com

Social Media



Women Working for Women

MEETINGS LOCATION BY ANNOUNCEMENT

MEETINGS HELD
THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
AS REQUIRED



The Business and Professional
Women's Club of Brampton Caledon

Club Focus

FALL 2025

BPW Brampton Caledon President's Message

Linda Ford

BPW Brampton Caledon

was proud to host the **BPW Ontario
Conference & Annual General
Meeting** at The Brampton Golf Club
on Saturday, September 13th, 2025.



I was so proud of our Conference Committee and all of our members who attended and contributed to the success of a SOLD OUT event.

Most importantly on Thursday, September 11th we held a **Virtual Resolutions Meeting**. **Thank you to Kim McDermott, Lubna Sami and Mina DiDomenico** for all of your hard work on the resolutions and the Commendation for the Honourable Charmaine Williams, MPP currently serving as Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity.

We presented the Commendation to the Honourable Charmaine Williams just after she attended the conference and brought Provincial Greetings.

All event speakers were exceptional – **thank you to Karin Gorgerat, Sandra Sharpe and Jill**

Knowles for captivating our attendees with their presentations.

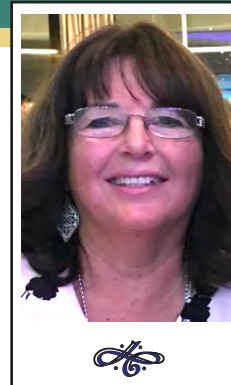
BPW Brampton Caledon has kicked off our Fall schedule with a strong renewal of membership – having us sit at 45 members presently.

My personal goal for this year is to reach 50+ members, and we are well on our way.

We welcomed **Andrea Seydel** to our meeting as our speaker in September, “**Live Life Happy with Andrea Seydel**”.

Proceeds from our extremely successful **Annual Charity Golf Tournament** were presented to **Caledon Community Services and Wellspring Chinguacousy**.

We have many more exciting speakers and meetings coming up. Members and Guests are welcome at our events. We hope you will join us and learn more about BPW Brampton Caledon.



We Do Good Work ♥



Thank you!





BPW BRAMPTON CALEDON EXECUTIVE 2025-2026

President **Linda Ford**
 Past President **Carol Kollar**
 1st Vice President **Amanda Graham-Rowe**
 2nd Vice President **Lubna Sami**
 Treasurer **Pat Dowling**
 Secretary **Mina Di Domenico**
 Corresponding Secretary **Sue Perlman**
 Membership Chair **Barbara Hore**
 Programs Chair **Kim McDermott**
 Publicity & Public Relations **Sheila Walker**
 Young BPW **Emmanuella Dwumfour**
 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 **Mina Di Domenico**
 Social Media **Emmanuella Dwumfour**

BPW Programs Kim McDermott

I would like to thank all our Members for their attendance to our meetings and events. Our Speakers are created to help inform, educate and stimulate our Members. If you have a friend or business colleague that you think the group would benefit from, please make your voices heard to one of our Executive Team. We want to bring forth exciting Speakers in areas that are interesting to all Members!

Happy Fall Ladies!

Save Dates!

the

**BPW Brampton Caledon
Dates to Remember**



SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Guest Speaker: Andrea Seydel, Founder of Live Life Happy Publishing
Location: Villa Caledon Inn, 16626 Airport Road, Caledon East, ON L7C 1W9
Topic: Live Life Happy! Discover how positivity, purpose, and personal storytelling can help you thrive – in life, leadership, and community.

OCTOBER 21, 2025

Guest Speaker(s): Ruhmeel Garcha, Pink Tax and Alexandria Nairn, Help A Girl Out
Location: Vesuvio's Ristorante, 91 George Street South, Brampton, ON L6Y 1P4
Topic(s): Ruhmeel Garcha a passionate youth advocate and high school leader dedicated to advancing equity and justice for women and marginalized communities. Alexandria Nairn – Help a Girl Out: Alexandria (Alex) is a Toronto-based Reproductive Justice Advocate with Bahamian and Trinidadian roots, dedicated to advancing sexual and reproductive healthcare access.
In support of Help A Girl Out and their mission to end period poverty, we will be collecting donations of Feminine Hygiene Products. Much thanks and appreciated!

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Guest Speaker: Shazia Warsi is a global citizen with a deep appreciation for diverse cultures, having lived in Pakistan, Zambia, England, and now Canada. Her international experiences have shaped her inclusive approach to personal growth and empowerment.
Location: The Terra Cotta Community Centre, 18 High St, Terra Cotta, ON L7C 1P2
Topic: Pot Luck & Paint Night. Join us for a creative and inspiring Paint Party that combines step-by-step painting instruction, guided meditation, and a life coaching session - all in one uplifting experience. All supplies are include. No painting experience is necessary.

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Holiday Social Event:
Location: Iris & David Nava's Home
Secret Santa Holiday Gift Swap and Stealing Game for \$30.00 value
Optional Donations being accepted for:
 • Ste. Louise Food Bank
 • Toys for Kids
 • Gifts for Seniors – Blankets, Socks, Candy, Chocolates, Hand Cream, Personal Care Products

JANUARY 20, 2026

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sherry Cox, Founder National Wildlife Centre and Leading Voice in Wildlife Medicine and Rehabilitation
Location: Brampton Flight Centre and Flying Club, 13691 McLaughlin Road, Cheltenham, ON L7C 3L7
Topic: Join us for an inspiring talk with Dr. Cox from birds to bears and endangered species across Canada. Dr. Cox will share her remarkable journey of protecting animals and advancing veterinary care

FEBRUARY 17, 2026: International Theme

Guest Speaker: To Be Determined
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 17, 2026: BPW Brampton 79th Anniversary Meeting

Guest Speaker: Cooking Class
Location: The Terra Cotta Community Centre, 18 High St, Terra Cotta, ON L7C 1P2
Topic: Cooking

APRIL 21, 2026:

Guest Speaker: Panel on Reverse Mortgage; Tax Fairness for Single Seniors
Location: The Terra Cotta Community Centre, 18 High St, Terra Cotta, ON L7C 1P2
 More Details to Follow!

MAY 19, 2026: BPW Brampton Annual General Meeting & Elections. Come Out and Support BPW Brampton Caledon and Be Part of our Direction. Consider Being on the Executive!

Guest Speaker:
Location: Brampton
Topic:

JUNE 22, 2026

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

JULY 9, 2026:

Social and Program Planning Event:
Location:
 More Details to Follow!

• **BPW ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE:** BRAMPTON GOLF CLUB, 7700 KENNEDY ROAD, BRAMPTON, ON L6W 0A1, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025. BRAMPTON CALEDON CLUB IS HOSTING!

• **BPW DISTRICT MEETING, OCTOBER 25, 2025, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO**

• **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: October**

• **SMALL BUSINESS MONTH: October**

• **SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2026: International Women's Day**

• **UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN, MARCH 20, 2026, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK**
 • **PROVINCIAL RESOLUTIONS VIRTUAL REVIEW MEETING, APRIL 1, 2026**

• **BPW BRAMPTON CALEDON 28th ANNUAL LADIES CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT, JUNE 22, 2026, GLEN EAGLE GOLF CLUB, CALEDON, ONTARIO**

• **BPW CANADA CONVENTION, AUGUST 13, 2026, REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN**

• **2026 NORTH AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE, AUGUST 23, 2026, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO**

• **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026: World Food Day**



SPECIAL EVENTS

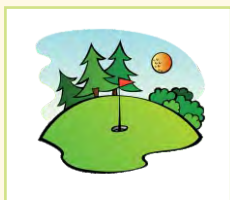
Pat Dowling

On Monday, June 16, 2025 we held our **27th Annual Charity Ladies Golf Tournament** at

Glen Eagle Golf Course.

It was a lovely day with 86 golfers, 101 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 Chinguacousy & Sandalwood Branch who donated \$3,000.00 to our event.



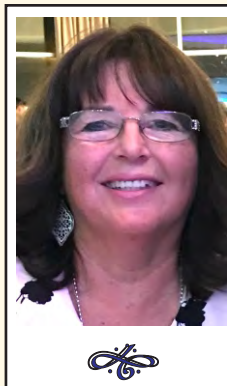
We are very pleased to announce that our club raised \$14,700.00 and with Scotia's donation, we raised a total of \$17,700.00!!

Our community partners for this event were Caledon Community Services, Victim Services of Peel and Wellspring Chinguacousy Cancer Support Centre.

We will once again be participating in the Fall Meat/Seafood Drive and the Christmas Cookie Drive alongside the Canadian Progress Club with our recipient being Ste. Louise Foodbank. Cut-off date for orders is October 16, 2025 with pick-up at Turner Fenton High School on October 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Please invite friends and family to look at the order form to help stock freezers for the winter!

We have also collaborated with Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon for Bingo. We currently have 12 volunteers that have completed the on-line training and are in the midst of the in-person training. Our volunteer hours will begin in December and we look forward to being able to continue supporting our community partners with this partnership.

We are going to have our Christmas Cookie Drive with the Canadian Progress Club with more details to follow.



BPW Ontario 79th Annual Conference & Annual General Meeting

Linda Ford



On September 11 and 13, 2025, BPW Brampton Caledon proudly hosted the 79th Annual BPW Ontario Conference and AGM. This **sold-out** event welcomed members from **10 clubs across the province**, creating a vibrant gathering of collaboration, learning, and celebration.

The conference opened virtually on Thursday evening with a focus on provincial resolutions (see the resolutions update for details).

On Saturday, members came together in person at the Brampton Golf Club for a full day of business sessions, networking, and inspiration. Highlights included elections for the new provincial board, updates from the North American and Caribbean Regional Coordinator, Karin Gorgerat, and reports from the provincial board members.

In the afternoon, attendees participated in a professional development workshop on **Interpersonal Conflict**, led by our own **Sandra Sharpe**, equipping members with valuable tools for personal and professional growth.

The banquet was a special time to celebrate, with recognition of long-time members and a commendation I presented to **Hon. Charmaine Williams, MPP for Brampton**, honouring her dedication to women in Ontario. The evening keynote speaker, **Jill Knowles**, delivered an inspiring address on leadership and women's empowerment, leaving a lasting impression on all in attendance.

This successful conference would not have been possible without the dedication of the Conference Committee: Barbara Hore, Pat Dowling, Linda Ford, Carol Kollar and Mina Di Domenico. Their hard work and leadership made the event a resounding — and, as Barb would say, smashing — success.





MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Barbara Hore

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

**Aretha McCarthy
Angela Meyer
Kulwinder Garcha**

I would encourage you to
join one of our committees
in order to really enjoy your

time with us. Your fresh perspective and new ideas will be
most welcome.

PROVINCIAL REPORT

Barbara Hore



BPW LONDON

Mina, Linda, Carol and myself attended our London club's 80th anniversary celebration recently. It was held at the beautiful Ivy Spencer Conference Centre. A lovely afternoon of visiting with former members, present members, along with a number of local dignitaries and a fantastic meal made for a very enjoyable afternoon.

BPW NIAGARA FALLS

This club is currently organizing their LISTEN, LAUGH & LEARN roundtable that is being presented on September 24th in Niagara Falls. The evening includes a roundtable discussion on issues relevant to women and a meal. The cost of the event is a donation of a feminine hygiene product.

BPW BOWMANVILLE

They will be celebrating their 75th anniversary on October 16th. The theme is "Remembering the Past - The future is Ours". It will be a journey back to the past with 3 guest speakers and a dinner. If any of you are interested in attending the information is on their website.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE 2025

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our amazing organizing committee, our sponsors (many of whom came from our club) and our many volunteers who assisted us the day of the event.



*Thank you all so much
for a job well done!*



WAYS TO GIVE - SUPPORTING BPW BRAMPTON CALEDON

Pat Dowling, Treasurer

Our generosity supports women and strengthens our community. Every contribution counts — from donations to local causes to helping keep our club running smoothly.

Learn More Online

Full details are on the BPW Brampton Caledon website under "**Fundraisers and Tax Receipts.**"

Community Giving & Tax Receipts

We are proud to support organizations such as:

- Caledon Community Services
- Ste. Louise Outreach Centre of Peel
- Victim Services of Peel
- Honeychurch Family Life Resource Centre
- Wellspring Chinguacousy Cancer Support Centre

Tax receipts are issued through our partner, Charitable Impact Foundation.

Seasonal Fundraisers

With the Canadian Progress Club, we host:

- Meat & Seafood Drives
- Holiday Cookie & Cake Drive

Annual Ladies' Charity Golf Tournament

Every June, this signature event combines fun and philanthropy through golf, hole sponsorships, prize donations, and event partnerships.

Support BPW Operations

Our club receives only \$4 per member from dues — not enough to cover essential costs like insurance, speakers, and digital tools. Contributions to the **Operations Fund** ensure our programs, events, and advocacy remain strong.

(Note: Tax receipts cannot be issued for Operations donations.)

How to Donate

E-transfer: treasurer@bpwbrampton.com

Security answer: Operations

Message: "Operations Donation"

Thank you for helping us empower women and strengthen our community.





BPW Resolutions By Laws & Public Affairs Update

Mina Di Domenico

BPW Canada 2025 Virtual AGM

 In August 23, members from across the country joined our **eight-hour virtual AGM marathon**. Delegates debated, voted, and powered through a full day of BPW business.

Special thanks to **Linda Ford** and **Lubna Sami** for representing the Brampton Caledon Club delegation. Lubna also secured an in-person hub in North Toronto, allowing delegates to share food, laughter, and teamwork — making a long day feel lighter. Thank you, Lubna!

Brampton Caledon's National Wins

- ✓ Single Seniors & Federal Tax Fairness – Passed Unanimously
- ✓ Criminalization of Coercive Control – Passed (96%)
- ✓ Standing with Afghan Women & Girls – Passed (79%)
- ✓ Emergency: Gendered Impact of AI – Passed (79%)

Why it matters: These resolutions champion tax fairness, protect women in abusive relationships, stand with Afghan women, and push for federal action on AI's gendered impacts.

Other resolutions, including those on immigrant women's credential recognition, leadership, and health care policy enhancements, were also passed, demonstrating the strength of national collaboration. One resolution was withdrawn on Human Trafficking, as clubs would like to partner and strengthen before resubmitting again.

Next steps: BPW Canada's Resolutions Committee will prepare bilingual briefs for the federal government, opposition parties, and allied organizations. This information will be available on the BPW Canada website.

BPW Ontario 2025 Conference & AGM

The Ontario Conference opened virtually on September 11 with provincial resolutions. Thank you to **Linda Ford, Lubna Sami, Kim McDermott, and Jocelyne Desautels (Niagara Falls)** for representing the Brampton Caledon delegation team!



All three Ontario resolutions passed (as amended):

1. Strengthening Mental Health Policy Through a Gender Lens – Brampton Caledon
2. Affordable Housing for Women in Ontario – North Toronto
3. Commendation for Hon. Charmaine Williams, MPP (Brampton) – Brampton Caledon

Public Affairs: What's New

Digital Safety & Gendered Harm

A 2025 Canadian Women's Foundation report found that:

- **61%** of women and gender-diverse people in Canada have faced online harassment, hate speech, stalking, or hacking.
- **43%** reported anxiety or depression as a result.
- Disproportionate impacts were seen among Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, youth, and persons with disabilities.

BPW Brampton Caledon is committed to promoting digital safety. Tell us:

- Would you attend a session on online safety?
- Interested in advocacy or partnerships for safer digital spaces?

Supporting Women with Disabilities

On **August 14, 2025**, when the Honourable Rechie Valdez (Minister of Women and Gender Equality) and Chi Nguyen (MP for Spadina—Harbourfront) publicly announced the \$656,053 funding to Realize's "*Breaking Barriers*" project, which tackles systemic obstacles facing women with recurring disabilities — enhancing their workplace inclusion, economic security, and leadership opportunities.

Stay Engaged

We'll continue updating members on these critical issues in newsletters and meetings. Your voice and participation help shape solutions for women across Canada.





KIVA Project: Empowering Women Worldwide:

BPW Brampton Caledon continues to make a global impact through its support of women entrepreneurs via Kiva microloans. We currently have **three active loans** helping women improve their livelihoods and strengthen their communities:

1. Sustainable Artisan Development Project (Peru)

- **Purpose:** Training, market access, and income support for 250+ artisans
- **Loan Amount:** USD\$250
- **Repayment status** - \$34.77 repaid; currently behind schedule
- **Note:** Originally due December 2025 – awaiting revised repayment schedule

2. Madina (Tajikistan)

- **Purpose:** X-ray specialist upgrading equipment to meet demand and improve healthcare access
- **Loan Amount:** USD\$125
- **Repayment Status:** \$29.33 repaid; on schedule
- **Expected Full Repayment:** October 2026

3. Gloria (Ghana)

- **Purpose:** Expanding mobile money business to meet customer demand
- **Loan Amount:** USD\$125
- **Repayment Status:** Repayment begins December 1, 2025
- **Expected Full Repayment:** September 2026
- **Social Impact:** Gloria will volunteer 2.5 hours/week as a CAMFED Agriculture Guide, training young women in sustainable farming

Looking Ahead:

As part of our **2026 budget**, BPW Brampton Caledon has approved an additional **USD \$500** to support more women entrepreneurs globally. Stay tuned for updates as we roll out these new loans and continue our mission to empower women through economic opportunity.

BPW International Updates – October 2025

Celebrating 95 Years of BPW

BPW International marked its 95th anniversary with the global campaign “We Are BPW: 95 Years of *Courage, Vision, and Unity.*” Clubs worldwide contributed stories and group photos, highlighting the organization's legacy of empowering women through advocacy, leadership, and community.

Strategic Partnership with UN Women

BPW International signed a global Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN Women to collaborate on gender equality and women's entrepreneurship. This partnership includes the development of a global network of **start-up centers for female entrepreneurs**, with pilot programs already underway in Sierra Leone, Niger, and DR Congo. **Promoting Peace & Equality**

In recognition of **International Day of Peace (Sept 20)**, BPW released six action points encouraging members to promote peace through local engagement. On **International Equal Pay Day (Sept 17)**, BPW renewed its commitment to closing the gender pay gap globally.

Youth & Climate Leadership

BPW continues to support young climate leaders through two fully funded global training programs:

- **Climate Finance Academy 2025 (Virtual)**
- **Equitable Climate Transitions Training**

These initiatives aim to equip youth with tools to lead inclusive and sustainable climate solutions.

Global Projects & Local Impact

BPW clubs around the world are actively engaged in impactful projects:

- **Women's Wellness Clinics** – St. Kitts
- **Environmental Cleanups** – Taiwan
- **Mentorship Programs** – Turkey
- **Support for Earthquake Victims** – Türkiye





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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.

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**



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Happy Fall!!



Business & Professional Women Brampton Caledon



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Building & Supporting

Promoting & Influencing

Worldwide Networking

**Empowered Women
Leading Positive Change**