



The Business and Professional Women's Club of Brampton Caledon

Club Focus

SPRING 2026

Club Focus Highlights

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2025-2026 Executive
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Save the Dates • Dates to Remember

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Public Affairs Update
Member Photo Gallery
BPW Members Business Card Directory
Humane Society:
Brampton Animal Services &
Caledon Animal Shelter

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Social Media



Women Working for Women

**MEETINGS LOCATION
BY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**DINNER & SPEAKER SERIES
MEETINGS HELD
THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING
AS REQUIRED**

BPW Brampton Caledon President's Message Linda Ford



BPW Brampton Caledon is growing and thriving!

Organizations like ours around the world are struggling due to post pandemic conditions and the current global economic environment. We are going against the trend by growing our club and it allows us to **"Do Good Work!"**

March was our **BPW Brampton Caledon Club's 79th Anniversary!**

We celebrated on St. Patrick's Day at the location of one of our Community Partners – Caledon Community Services, with a new event for us - an exciting evening of flavour & connection through our cooking demonstration by **Lubna Sami**, 2nd Vice President of our club. We had a great turnout – wonderful participation and a flavourful meal

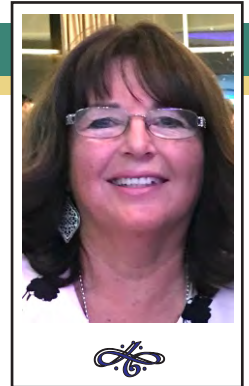


prepared with many hands. Leftovers were packaged and left at The Exchange (Caledon's Food Bank) for the next day.

It is also the time of year where Resolutions are well under way! At Business and Professional Women Brampton Caledon, Resolutions are a key way members turn ideas into action. A Resolution is a formal proposal that identifies an issue affecting women and outlines specific actions BPW should take to address it whether through advocacy, education, or policy change.

The process usually begins at the club

level, and in our case where Mina (our Secretary, Website and Resolutions Chair) and her team research an issue and draft a Resolution with clear "whereas" (background) and "resolved" (action) clauses. Once approved locally, it can move to the national level for



discussion, refinement, and voting. If adopted nationally, the resolution may then be submitted to the international level, where it can shape global advocacy efforts.

Another priority as our year comes to an end is the Call For Nominations! We are always looking for new members to become involved and a great way to do that is to consider a position on the Board or on a Committee. Please feel free to self-nominate – or

nominate someone else that you think would be a great addition to the team.

I want to sincerely thank all BPW Brampton Caledon members for the inspiration and motivation you've given me during my time as President. Your passion, commitment, and support have made this role not only meaningful, but truly rewarding. It's your energy and dedication that continue to drive our work forward and remind me why what we do matters so much. I'm grateful to be part of such a strong, empowering community.



BPW Brampton Caledon Club Focus



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**

Throughout the year, we were fortunate to host a diverse and engaging lineup of speakers and experiences. Highlights included welcoming one of our youngest speakers, who presented on the important topic of the Pink Tax, learning from a large animal veterinarian, gaining insight into the impactful work of World Vision, and enjoying a hands-on cooking demonstration. Each program offered

something unique and sparked meaningful conversation among our members.

Taking part in the July Social continues to be a wonderful opportunity to connect with members, reflect on the past year, and gather ideas and inspiration for the year ahead.

I am excited to continue building dynamic, engaging programs that reflect the strength and diversity of our membership and the spirit of our motto: **"We do good work."**

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): Ruhmeet Garcha, Pink Tax and Alexandria Nairn, Help A Girl Out
Location: Vesuvio's Ristorante, 91 George Street South, Brampton, ON L6Y 1P4
Topic(s): Ruhmeet 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 included. 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:

- Site. Louise Food Bank
- Toys for Kids
- Gifts for Seniors – Blankets, Socks, Candy, Chocolates, Hand Cream, Personal Care Products

JANUARY 20, 2026

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sherri 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: Alana Mascoll, World Vision Canada (WVC). Alana was formerly the Director of Fragile and Humanitarian Affairs at WVC, and she currently serves as Director of the President's Office. BPW members will be inspired by her work with women and children in some of the most fragile places on earth including South Sudan and Haiti.
Location: Vesuvio's Ristorante, 91 George Street South, Brampton, ON L6Y 1P4
Topic: Alana will inspire us with her myriad experiences with World Vision Canada

- 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 Caledon

79th Anniversary Meeting
Guest Speaker: Cooking Class
Location: The Terra Cotta Inn, 175 King Street, Terra Cotta, ON L7C 1P2
Topic: We're Cooking in Caledon!
More details to follow!

APRIL 21, 2026:

Guest Speakers: Elizabeth Brown, Single Seniors for Tax Fairness; and, Sami Saad, Reverse Mortgage Update
Location: Bramalea Lions Club, 45 Avondale Blvd., Brampton, ON L6V1H1

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!
Location: Brampton Flight Centre and Flying Club, 13691 McLaughlin Road, Cheltenham, ON L7C 3L7

JULY 2026:

July Social and Programs Planning Event
Location: Iris & David Nava's Home
More Details to Follow!

DATES OBSERVANCES TO REMEMBER:

- FEBRUARY 11: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE
- SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2026: International Women's Day
- MARCH 9-19: UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)
- MARCH 20, 2026: UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN, MANHATTAN, NEW YORK
- MARCH 21: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- APRIL 8, 2026: FEDERAL RESOLUTIONS VIRTUAL CLUB MEETING
- APRIL 12: EQUAL PAY DAY & ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN ONTARIO (1917)
- APRIL 15, 2026: PROVINCIAL RESOLUTIONS VIRTUAL REVIEW MEETING
- APRIL 22: EARTH DAY
- SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026, BPW REGIONAL MEETING, BETTY'S RESTAURANT, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO
- MAY 28: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH
- JUNE 15, 2026: BPW BRAMPTON CALEDON 28TH ANNUAL LADIES CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT, GLEN EAGLE GOLF CLUB, 15731 Regional Rd. 50, Caledon, ON L7E 3H9 CALEDON, ONTARIO. More Details to Follow!
- JUNE 25 & 27, 2026: BPW ONTARIO VIRTUAL AGM
- AUGUST 13-16, 2026: BPW CANADA CONVENTION, REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN
- AUGUST 23-25, 2026: NORTH AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO
- OCTOBER: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
- OCTOBER: SMALL BUSINESS MONTH
- OCTOBER 11: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL
- OCTOBER 16: WORLD FOOD DAY
- NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 10: 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- DECEMBER 6: NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

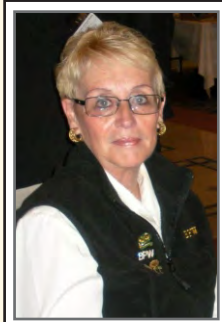
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Barbara Hore

Our membership currently stands at 50 members and we are aiming to grow to 60 members in the coming year.

We are delighted to welcome **Shazia Warsi** and **Amy Nimens**

to our club. We sincerely hope that their time with us will be meaningful and enriching.



PROVINCIAL REPORT

Barbara Hore, Ontario Club Liaison

Presently I am preparing for our Regional Meeting that will be held on April 25th in Niagara Falls at Betty's Restaurant. All Ontario clubs have been invited. There will be a short Business Meeting, Trade Tables, Lunch, 50/50 Draw, Raffles and an amazing Guest Speaker Julie Christensen who will talk about mental health issues and anger management. This will be a great opportunity for a visit with members of other clubs since our AGM this year will be virtual. Registration form is on the Brampton Caledon website under "Calendar Events".

The London club will be the host club for the 2026 Provincial Conference (AGM) on June 27th. It will run from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will be virtual.

The Barrie club is preparing to celebrate their 80th Anniversary on June 10th. There will be more information on this shortly.

Our Niagara Falls club is preparing for the 2027 Provincial Conference which will be a live celebration. They will be commemorating their 110th Anniversary. More information to follow.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Pat Dowling

Our next fundraiser is our **Meat and Seafood Drive** featuring

McGregor Meats. We are asking you to please pass onto your family and friends. This drive is very popular and gets us ready for BBQ season. Forms have been sent out.

Remember to have an order form for each person you sell to so that pick-up of the items will be quick and easy – pick up details to follow. All forms and payments are sent to: treasurer@bpwbrampton.com



We are following this up with our **28th Annual Ladies Charity Golf Tournament** being held on **Monday, June 15, 2026**. It will be held again at Glen Eagle Golf Club, 15731 Regional Road 50 in Caledon. This is a best ball 9 hole ladies only

tournament including golf, cart, lunch and dinner. We will be having live and silent auctions, raffle prizes and vendor tables. We are looking for hole sponsorship and prizes so please let us know what you can donate and we will make arrangements to get them picked up.



We are continuing with our **Bingo collaboration with the Zonta Club** and have 3 days of volunteering booked for May and June.

Many thanks to all of our members and their continued support of our club and our community.

Happy Spring !!!





BPW Resolutions, By-Laws & Public Affairs Update

Mina Di Domenico

The 2026 Resolution Cycle is Underway

BPW's resolution process is a key way members influence policy at provincial and national levels. This year, our club continues to advance important advocacy priorities through both BPW Ontario and BPW Canada.

BPW Ontario

At the provincial level, the Resolutions Chair has accepted our club's resolution and commendation for debate and vote at the BPW Ontario Virtual AGM.

- Resolution: Improving Timely Access to Women's Health Screening and Diagnostic Testing in Ontario
Many thanks to Nelia De Sousa for suggesting this important topic.

- Commendation: Timea Nagy

Thank you to Linda Ford for this nomination.

A Club provincial virtual resolutions review was held on April 15. We appreciate the members who participated and provided valuable feedback.

BPW Ontario Virtual AGM – Key Dates

- **June 25, 2026 | 6:00 pm** – Debate and vote on province-wide resolutions and commendations
- **June 27, 2026 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm** – Business sessions and updates on provincial initiatives
Members are encouraged to visit the BPW Ontario website for updates.

BPW Canada

At the national level, the Resolutions Chair has accepted our club's resolutions and commendation for debate and vote at the BPW Canada 2026 Convention.

- Closing Persistent Pay Gaps for Women in Canada
- Implementing Stronger Digital Laws to Regulate Social Media Platforms (in partnership with BPW Edmonton)
- Closing Gaps in Canada's Sexual Assault Response System (in partnership with BPW Edmonton and the CSW70 Delegation)

- Commendation: Canadian Coalition for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) (in partnership with BPW Montreal)

A federal virtual resolutions review was held on April 8. Thank you to the members who participated and contributed to the discussion.

All related documents are available in the Members' Area of our website.

Looking Ahead – BPW Canada Convention 2026

The BPW Canada Convention will take place in Regina from August 13–16, 2026. This national gathering provides an opportunity for members to:

- engage in advocacy and governance discussions
 - participate in professional development
 - connect with members from across Canada
 - help shape the future direction of BPW Canada
- Hotel and airline discounts are available to support member participation.

Visit www.bpwcanada.com/2026-convention for details.

Once adopted, resolutions become BPW policy positions that guide advocacy efforts, including the preparation of briefs, submissions, and dialogue with governments, ministries, opposition parties, and allied organizations.

CSW70 (2026) – Key Outcomes and Why They Matter

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global forum where governments meet annually to review progress and agree on actions to advance gender equality. The 70th session (CSW70) focused on accelerating gender equality through women's economic empowerment, social protection, and stronger institutional accountability, in the context of global economic uncertainty, conflict, and rapid technological change.

Understanding the Process

CSW negotiations begin with a **Zero Draft**, prepared by the UN Secretariat, and conclude with the adoption of **Agreed Conclusions**, which establish global political commitments on gender equality.



BPW Brampton Caledon Club Focus

A Historic and Contested Outcome

CSW70 marked a significant turning point. For the first time, the Agreed Conclusions were adopted not by consensus but by a recorded vote, following intense negotiations and challenges to long-standing commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action.

The outcome was adopted with **37 Member States in favour, 1 against (United States), and 6 abstentions**. This reflects growing geopolitical tensions around gender equality and human rights, and highlights the fragility of global consensus.

Despite this, the majority of governments reaffirmed commitments across key priority areas:

Key Priorities Reaffirmed

Women's Economic Empowerment

Strengthening women's workforce participation and leadership, expanding social protection, addressing pay gaps, and improving access to finance and markets.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Advancing prevention, including emerging forms such as coercive control and digital abuse, alongside stronger legal frameworks and survivor-centred supports.

Technology, AI and the Digital Gender Divide

Addressing risks such as bias and online harm, while promoting women's participation in STEM and digital innovation.

Women's Leadership and Decision-Making

Removing structural barriers and increasing women's representation in political and economic leadership.

Intersectional and Inclusive Approaches

Recognizing the diverse realities of women, including Indigenous, migrant, older women, and women with disabilities.

Why It Matters for BPW

CSW70 demonstrates that global agreement on women's rights can no longer be assumed. While progress continues, it is increasingly contested. This makes translating international commitments into national and local action more critical than ever. For BPW, this is a call to strengthen advocacy, align with global priorities, and continue advancing women's economic independence and leadership.



It's our
50th
Party!

Celebrate! Advocate! Educate!
Join us for BPW Canada's **50th Party!**

BPW CANADA
Convention
2026

Regina, Saskatchewan
August 13th to 16th



Enjoy the prairie sunshine while at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel!
Balconies off every bedroom!
Windows in our meeting rooms!



Members Around 2025-2026 Photo Gallery





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We Do Good Work!



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 locations:



Brampton Animal Services:

475 Chrysler Drive, Brampton, ON L6S 6G3 (905) 458-580

Caledon Animal Shelter:

12889 Coleraine Drive, Bolton, ON (905) 584-2272, Ext. 4698

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*Happy
Spring!!*



Business & Professional Women Brampton Caledon



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Building & Supporting
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**Empowered Women
Leading Positive Change**