

Please Join us!



Roses Bistro
84 King St. West
Bowmanville,
ON, L1C 1R1 ([Get directions](#))

October Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

6:00 PM Social Networking

6:30 PM Dinner

Cost: \$30.00 - Members

\$35.00 - Non-Members

Location: Rose's Bistro

84 King St. W., Bowmanville

***RSVP: Please confirm your reservation with
Roxy Barnes at 905-623-5327 before Friday,
October 24***

Guests Welcome!

DATES TO REMEMBER

October is Women's History Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 11, 2014 - International Day of the Girl

Oct. 18, 2014 - Persons Day

March 9-20, 2015 - Commission on the Status of
Women (CSW/59/Beijing+20) United Nations,
New York

May 22-24, 2015 - BPW Ontario – 69th
Provincial Conference hosted by BPW Barrie

Aug. 6-7, 2015 - BPW Canada AGM - Women's
Empowering Principles for the prevention of
Violence Against Women

October Programme Details

Speaker: Linda Kent

CEO and Library Director for Clarington

**Topic: "New Directions for the Public
Library"**

The Bulletin is a publication of the Business and Professional Women's Club
of Bowmanville, Bowmanville ON CA

Kris McDonald - Editor

**Deadline for submissions to November Bulletin:
November 11, 2014**

Please submit items for the BPW Bowmanville Newsletter to Kris @
kriscdonald.bpw@gmail.com.



Persons Day – Oct. 18

The historic decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal – the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain – on October 18, 1929. This gave women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women's increased participation in public and political life. October 18 is now celebrated as Persons Day, and the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case are awarded each year in October to mark the historic Persons Case decision.

The five women who pursued the case have become known as the [Famous Five](#). They were journalists, magistrates and politicians. Their arduous legal quest, which began in 1927, resulted in a milestone victory – a turning point for equality rights in Canada.

The *British North America Act (BNA Act)* of 1867 set out the powers and responsibilities of the provinces and of the federal government. This federal *Act* used the word "persons" when it referred to more than one person and the word "he" when it referred to one person. Therefore, many argued, the Act was really saying that only a man could be a person, thus preventing women from participating fully in politics or affairs of state.

This situation was of concern to Canada's Emily Murphy, the first woman magistrate in the British Empire. Judge Murphy was the magistrate of a newly created Women's Court operating in Edmonton. On her first day, a defendant's lawyer challenged a ruling on the grounds that she was not a "person" and therefore not qualified to perform the duties of a magistrate.

Magistrate Alice Jamieson of Calgary found herself similarly challenged. In 1917, one of her rulings was appealed to the Alberta Supreme Court, which deemed there was no legal disqualification for holding public office based on sex.

At the same time, women's groups began pressuring the federal government to appoint a woman to the Senate. Despite the support of two consecutive prime ministers, no appointments materialized. Governments used the "persons" argument to keep women out of important positions, like the Senate. If the word "person" applied only to men, then the stipulation that only "qualified persons" could be appointed to the Senate of Canada meant that only men could be appointed.

In 1927, Emily Murphy and four other prominent Canadian women – Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Henrietta Muir Edwards – asked the Supreme Court of Canada to answer the question: does the word "person" in Section 24 of the *B.N.A. Act* include female persons? After five weeks of debate and argument, the Supreme Court of Canada decided that the word "person" did not include women.

The five women, who came to be known as The Famous Five, were shocked by the Supreme Court decision but did not give up the fight. They took their case to London, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain, which in those days was Canada's highest court of appeal.

On October 18, 1929, Lord Sankey, Lord Chancellor of the Privy Council, announced the decision of the five lords: "The exclusion of women from all public offices is a relic of days more barbarous than ours. And to those who would ask why the word "person" should include females, the obvious answer is, why should it not?"

The Famous Five not only won the right for women to serve in the Senate but helped pave the way for women to participate equally in – and contribute equally to – all other aspects of life in Canada.



GTA District Annual General Meeting

Delegate Report – Kris McDonald

The Annual General Meeting of the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) BPW Clubs – District IV was held on the evening of October 1, 2014 at the Latvian Centre, 4 Credit Union Drive, Toronto. BPW North Toronto hosted the meeting.

District IV Director Katherine Allen welcomed eighteen BPW members from the three District Clubs of North Toronto, Durham and Bowmanville and three guests. Four members from the Bowmanville Club attended - Nancy Barnes, Mavis Carlton, Barbara Hicks and Kris McDonald.

One guest BPW member who attended this meeting was of particular interest. Lisa Willenegger is currently a member of BPW Zurich, Switzerland. Lisa has just relocated to Toronto and works for Zurich Insurance Company in International Property Insurance. She is planning to spend some time getting to learn about Canada and Toronto. This was the first BPW event that Lisa had attended since coming to Canada.

Ethel and Valerie Clarke presented an interesting discussion of the Power of Committees. Creating a scenario of a phantom neophyte Membership Committee chair that was unsure how to proceed, these veteran BPW women wove a humorous and informative conversation about the power of sharing the workload of a committee with clearly defined goals and tasks to be performed. With provisos like “Don’t try to reinvent the wheel” and “Communication is the basis for everything”, Ethel and Valerie spoke about involving committee members in the varying tasks of the committee. Asking new members of the club to serve as committee members, which would assist them in becoming more involved in BPW by letting them learn about the BPW process. Involving longer-term members of the club who are less active can use their wealth of experience to further the goals of the individual committee. It was altogether an interesting and instructive presentation.

BPW North Toronto currently has 24 members. BPW Durham currently has 14 members. I reported that as of the transfer of Carrie Evans from BPW Brampton, BPW Bowmanville has 15 members. The printing of the BPW Bowmanville Programme was not completed by the date of this meeting, but photocopies of the BPW Bowmanville 2014-15 finalized Programme were distributed to the delegates at this meeting.

Maide Yazar, 1st Vice President and Resolutions Chair of BPW Ontario, spoke of a current Resolutions initiative. At its heart, BPW is an advocacy organization for women’s equality and rights. Each club has been challenged to submit a Resolution each year to fulfill the advocacy mandate of the organization. This would make conferences and conventions true arenas of women’s advocacy.

The GTA AGM provided an altogether interesting, stimulating and delicious evening of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs activities.