



BPW BOWMANVILLE BULLETIN February 2026

February is Black History Month

30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations — From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries, we reflect on how far we've come and pay tribute to Black Canadians who have helped build up the country and move it forward.

For more than four centuries, Black communities have contributed to Canada's social, cultural, scientific, academic and economic development. Whether it's the Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine, who initiated recognition of Black History Month in Canada; Dr. Yvette Bonny, a pioneer in hematology who performed the first pediatric bone marrow transplant in Quebec; or Elkin James, a wrestler and artist who co-founded a wrestling school in Toronto, exceptional people inspire today's generations to dream, grow and thrive in Canada.

Since 1995, Canada has made significant progress, notably by recognizing the United Nations' International Decades for People of African Descent and investing in Black-focused initiatives. These investments have supported more than 2,300 community projects through the [Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative](#), helped more than 24,000 Black entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses through the [Black Entrepreneurship Program](#), and ensured sustainable funding for generations to come through the creation of the [Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund](#).

The Canadian Government is firmly committed to combatting all forms of racism and discrimination against Black people with **Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028** and **Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate**. This brings together nearly 100 government-wide initiatives.

Here in Bowmanville on **Saturday, February 21**, at Garnet Rickard there will be a **Black Vendor Village** from 10am to 4 pm. This event features shopping, entertainment and food recognizing culture, creativity and connection showcasing the incredible talent and entrepreneurial spirit of black owned businesses in our community.

Advocacy is the act of supporting, promoting, or arguing in favor of a cause, policy, idea, or group. It's about using your voice—individually or collectively—to influence decisions, raise awareness, or create change. This is what BPW is all about!

Supporting Promoting & Raising Awareness in 2025

- Land Acknowledgement Shares & Education
 - Club Collect Shares & Education
- Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Clarington. Build Like a Girl. Black History Month.
 - BPW Ontario and BPW Canada AGM
- BPW Bowmanville 75th Anniversary – ***“Remembering the Past – The Future is Ours”***
 - Road Map to the Future & Equality.
 - BPW Bowmanville Articles in Orono Times

Arguing in favour of a cause, policy, idea or group by supporting BPW Resolutions:

- 2025-01 Single Senior Women and Federal Tax Equity – **BPW Brampton Caledon**
- 2025-02 Criminalization of Coercive Control in Intimate Partner Relationships - **BPW Brampton Caledon**
- 2025-03 Standing with Afghan Women and Girls - **BPW Brampton Caledon**
- 2025-04 Addressing challenges Faced by Professional Immigrant Women Integrating into Canada's Workforce – **BPW Montreal**
- 2025-05 Strengthening the Recognition of Foreign Credentials with Employment Equity Measures – **BPW Montreal**
- 2025-06 Combating Human Trafficking – **BPW Montreal**
- 2025-07 Recommitment to Increasing Women's Representation in Leadership Roles – **BPW Edmonton**
- 2025-08 Amending the Canada Health Act to Ensure Universal Access to Health Care and Support Funding for Innovative Primary Health Care Models – **BPW North York**

Let's continue our work and focus in 2026 to continue to make this world a better place for Women, Girls and their families!

BPW Bowmanville Updates and Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Our regular meeting celebrating our International Federation with the Candle lighting ceremony. Location: Home of Barb Hicks starting at 5:30.

Notable Birthdays February 8, Barb Hicks. February 17, Pamela Cooper. March 11, Tina Jordan. March 16, Pat Keays. March 25, Terry Traill.

Sunday, February 22. Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Sunday, March 8, International Women's Day Celebration "Give to Gain" at the Orono Town Hall from 1 to 3. There will be a special guest speaker and a focus on groups assisting women in our community. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. Call Bev at 905 439 8016

March 9 to March 20, 2026. Commission on the Status of Women: 70th Session (CSW70) in N Y with the theme: "**Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls.**"

Hope to see everyone on February 24 at Barb's. There will be further information about the menu later in the month.

Judy Hagerman (Acting Editor of the Bulletin)