



## **BPW BOWMANVILLE BULLETIN March, 2026**

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

Our February meeting at Barb's was excellent. The setting and the food all so good.

Pamela's lovely cupcakes topped off a wonderful dinner.

Tina led us smoothly through our agenda, Pat led the Candle lighting ceremony honouring our International Organization.

Pamela gave an excellent presentation about the workshop conducted by National President, Shan McEwing in February. Shannon is focused on creating a road map to how we can effectively advocate our causes. She has developed a four-legged stool to help us advocate effectively.

1) Educate and raise public awareness: Internal education, provide links, host speakers.

2) Create a movement: Information out through emails, socials and petition platforms as well as official government petition. Relay information to those most affected.

3) Build coalitions and partnerships with like minded agencies, ie., Canadian Labour Counsels, unions, colleges, universities etc.

4) Connect with policy makers- have 30 second elevator pitch. Find out what values we share, what is the problem, propose a solution, and ask for help. Persistence matters!

**On Sunday, March 8, International Women's Day**, Barb, Pamela and I headed to Orono for the Celebration, ***Give to Gain***. We heard from various agencies in the community including the Clarington East Food Bank and Bethesda House whose work depends on volunteers.

The special guest speaker was Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North and Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response Services. Jill is the first woman to hold that position. She talked about that role and about balancing the needs of her daughters with the demands of her job. Jill is an active advocate for women.

There was a wonderful article in the Star written by Sheelagh Whittaker the first female CEO of a TSX listed company EDS. She talked about how "our generation" (she is 78)

spent decades fighting for a seat at the boardroom table. She says: “The boardroom table feels rather small when you consider that somewhere today, a girl can be beaten for carrying a schoolbook. I mourn for the women under the Taliban who can not leave their homes without a male escort, for girls in cultures where child marriage is a transaction rather than a tragedy and where learning to read is act of defiance. These women are fighting for the right to know the table exists.”

Sheelagh’s latest book is *Through the Glass Ceiling: Reflections on Feminism from the C Suite*.

## **BPW Bowmanville Updates and Upcoming Events**

**Notable Birthdays** March 11, Tina Jordan. March 16, Pat Keays. March 25, Terry Traill.

March 19 would be the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our beloved [Mavis Carleton](#). Mavis was an enthusiastic member of BPW travelling to Conferences, Conventions and several International Congresses.

[Bethesda House Auction and Fund Raiser](#) will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

[Red Pashmina Walk in Peterborough](#). The Annual Walk for Women’s Right to Learn in Afghanistan on May 31. Click the link to learn more and be sure to let the BPW Bowmanville President know if you are planning to attend.

[BPW North America and the Caribbean Conference in Niagara Falls August 24-26](#).

***Hope to see everyone on March 24 at Barb’s. Please forward your etransfer for \$25 to Val and let Tina and Judy know if you are attending. There will be further information about the menu later in the month.***

*Judy Hagerman (Acting Editor of the Bulletin)*

