



BPW Bowmanville Bulletin

May 2026

Advocacy is the act of supporting, promoting or arguing in favour 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!

April Meeting

Thank you again to Barb for hosting our April 28th meeting in her home. We enjoyed a lovely dinner of shepherd's pie from the caterer, along with salad and dessert made by Judy.

The main thrust of the meeting was to discuss BPW Ontario's draft resolutions, one of which was submitted by our club. We needed to provide quick feedback by April 30th.

The five draft resolutions are:

1. Improving Timely Access to Women's Health Screening and Diagnostic Testing in Ontario
2. Gender Equity in Artificial Intelligence for Women in Ontario
3. Reaffirm RESOLUTION 2024-06: Moving to a Free Prescription Contraceptive Plan in Ontario
4. The Province of Ontario Must Declare Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic
5. Encouraging Women's Participation and Leadership in Municipal Politics – submitted by BPW Bowmanville.

Discussion focused on resolutions 2 and 5, and a suggested name change for number 4. Corinna, vacationing in Greece at the time, valiantly submitted our feedback by the deadline.

BPW Member Renewals Are Due!

May is the beginning of the BPW fiscal year and when BPW members must renew their memberships. If you have not yet renewed yours, please send your \$185 e-transfer of fees to Treasurer Val and also be sure to complete a BPW Canada Interest and Membership Form, along with the BPW Bowmanville form to update all details.

New Member – Mary-Anne Pietrusiak

Mary-Anne is a new member of BPW Bowmanville. She attended our 75th anniversary celebration after seeing Pamela's Facebook post. Pamela and Mary-Anne have been friends for over 26 years. Mary-Anne moved to Bowmanville last September (from Ajax) and saw joining BPW as a good way to meet people from the area. She has been married to Garth for over 34 years and they have twin boys: James lives in Sudbury and is a sprint canoe & kayak coach, and William works for an engineering consulting company, is married and lives in Courtice.



Mary-Anne is retired and formerly worked as an epidemiologist and manager for the local Health Department. Her job was to analyze and interpret health data for Durham Region so that we can better understand health issues in our community. Working as a public health professional for 35 years has given her a keen interest in health and equity issues. While she loved her job, retirement has happily given her more time to travel the world and re-energize at her Haliburton cottage. She loves to be active by hiking, swimming, canoeing, and participating in yoga, pilates and spinning classes. The picture shows Mary-Anne catching a piranha in the Amazon, the only one on the boat to do so and she caught two!

Upcoming BPW Events

Saturday, May 30 – 2nd Annual National Red Pashmina Walk in Peterborough

The Annual Walk for Women's Right to Learn in Afghanistan

Register at: <https://righttolearn.ca/red-pashmina-walk/>

Wednesday, June 10 – BPW Barrie 80th Anniversary

Traditions Banquet Hall, 142 John Street, Barrie

3-Course Dinner + Feature Speakers + Silent Auction (proceeds to Georgian College WOMEN'S inTUITION), Price \$83 for early bird tickets, \$90 as of June 1

Register at: <https://bpwbarrie.com/events/>

Thursday, June 25 & Saturday, June 27 – BPW Ontario AGM

June 25 (Resolutions): 6:00 to 9:00 pm, June 27 (AGM): 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Information at: <https://bpwontario.com/bpw-ontario-2026-virtual-agm/>

August 24-26 – BPW North America & the Caribbean Conference in Niagara Falls

Hosted by BPW Canada at the Hilton Niagara Falls/Fallsview Hotel & Suites

Information at: <https://bpwcanada.com/nac-conference/>

Upcoming Bowmanville Events

Camp 30 Events by the Jury Lands Foundation

Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 – Guided tour of Camp 30, meet at 151 Sprucewood Cres.

Saturday, May 23 at 1:30 – Sher Leetooze presentation: Clarington's Home Children

Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 – JJ McLellan presentation: Update on Cafeteria Camp 30

Sunday, June 14 at 10:00 – Guided tour of Camp 30, meet at 151 Sprucewood Cres.

Information at: <https://jurylandsfoundation.com/>

Sunday, May 24 – Ride for the Ridge

Fundraiser bike ride for Lakeridge Health hospitals

Information at: <https://give.lhfoundation.ca/ui/rftr2026>

Mary-Anne is riding in memory of her work colleague with his family. Sponsor her at:

<https://give.lhfoundation.ca/ui/rftr2026/p/e8537b36ea7b45dda7f74e3dc4e09ea1>

Local Farmer's Markets are Open for the Season!

Bowmanville Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9AM to 2PM at the Garnet B Rickard Recreation Complex



Notable Birthdays

Happy Belated Birthday to Sheila who reached a big milestone on **April 8th**. She is celebrating with a cruise through Quebec and Atlantic Canada at the end of May.

Happy Birthday to Corinna on **May 19th**! Maybe she can have an extra long long weekend.

May Meeting – BPW Bowmanville Annual General Meeting!

It's time to elect our officers for 2026/27. We hope to see everyone on **May 26th** at Barb's house – 5:30 PM Social, 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Business Meeting

Menu – Lasagna, salad & gluten-free brownies

Please send an e-transfer of \$25 to Val, and let Tina & Judy know if you are attending.

Bulletin Editors:

Judy Hagerman & Mary-Anne Pietrusiak