



BPW Bowmanville Bulletin

June 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!

May Meeting

Our lively May 26th meeting was hosted in Barb's home. We enjoyed lasagna dinner with salad courtesy of Judy and gluten-free brownies made by Mary-Anne, with a heavy dose of chocolate appreciated by all. As a new member, Mary-Anne received her BPW name tag and pins. We cheered Barb as she received flowers for being a member for 35 years.

Our annual meeting resulted in the election of the following positions:

1. President – Pamela Cooper
2. Immediate Past President – Tina Jordan
3. Treasurer – Valerie Mayers-Griffith
4. Secretary – Mary-Anne Pietrusiak
5. Resolutions Chair – Corinna Traill
6. Newsletter Editor – Mary-Anne Pietrusiak & Judy Hagerman
7. Social Media Chairs – Corinna Traill, Sheila Crook, Tina Jordan
8. Webmaster Chair – Sheila Crook
9. Attendance/Hospitality Chair – Judy Hagerman

The position of Vice President is currently vacant.

Celebrating Two Years of Leadership: A Proud Chapter for BPW Bowmanville – From Tina Jordan

As my two-year term as President of BPW Bowmanville comes to a close, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what our club has achieved together. These years have been marked by growth, advocacy, education, and a renewed commitment to empowering women locally and globally. With a dedicated executive team and passionate members, BPW Bowmanville has continued to honour its legacy while boldly shaping its future.



Tina Jordan & Barb Hicks, in celebration of Barb's 35 years with BPW

Honouring 75 Years of Impact

One of our most meaningful milestones was celebrating BPW Bowmanville's 75th Anniversary — "Remembering the Past – The Future is Ours." This event not only honoured the trailblazers who came before us but also reaffirmed our commitment to advancing gender equality and women's leadership for generations to come.

Advocacy That Matters

Our club proudly championed a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals, weaving them into our programming, education, and community engagement. From SDG 4 (Quality Education) to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), we ensured our work reflected both local needs and global priorities.

Key Advocacy Accomplishments:

- Launching the **Road Map to the Future & Equality**
- Creating bold **BPW Advocacy Swag** featuring "I will not settle — Equity Now!"
- Advancing our **BPW Bowmanville Resolution: Women in Municipal Politics**
- Deepening understanding through **Personalized Land Acknowledgements & Education**
- Delivering ongoing **Club Collect** and **Black History Month** education
- Participating in national & provincial BPW initiatives, including the 2026 Advocacy Workshop, President Coffee Chats, and the Famous Five Event

Community Engagement & Education:

Our club continued to show up, speak up, and stand up for women.

- Celebrating **International Women's Day 2026 – "Give to Gain"**
- Hosting meaningful **Earth Day** discussions
- Supporting learning and awareness across our community
- On May 30th, our club proudly participated in the **Walk to Support the Right to Learn – Afghanistan**, standing in solidarity with women and girls denied access to education.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To our executive team — Pamela Cooper, Valerie Mayers-Griffith, and Judy Hagerman — and to every member who contributed time, passion, and heart: thank you. Leading this club has been an honour. Together, we upheld BPW's mission, strengthened our community, and continued the legacy of a club that has thrived for 75 years. The future truly is ours — and it is bright.

With pride,

Tina Jordan, President, BPW Bowmanville (2024–2026)

Member Focus: Pamela Cooper, New President of BPW Bowmanville

Pamela joined BPW Bowmanville after spending decades hearing stories about the club from her grandmother and mother, both of whom were active members and greatly enjoyed their involvement. With a lifelong passion for supporting women and girls, she decided to experience BPW for herself. The sense of community, networking opportunities, and support that she had heard so much about were exactly what she was looking for. So far, BPW has exceeded her expectations.

As Pamela takes over the role of president, she is hoping to continue Tina's incredible work of promoting the club and having a visual presence in the community. She hopes that the club's visibility in the community will resonate not only with like-minded women but also to the community in general. Secondly, as BPW at all levels focuses on legislation, Pamela's goal is to target the follow-up after resolutions are passed. Finally, in line with one of the reasons she joined, she hopes to deepen and strengthen her connections to other women at all levels of BPW. With this in mind she is very much looking forward to the North American & Caribbean conference in August of this year. She is very grateful for all the support and encouragement of the women in the club and will be utilizing all of their strengths for the next two years.



2026 Executive: Pamela Cooper, Valerie Mayers-Griffith, Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, Tina Jordan

New member pins & name tag

Mary-Anne & Tina



Red Pashmina Walk in Peterborough



BPW Bowmanville lent support to Right to Learn Afghanistan by participating in the 2nd Annual National Red Pashmina Walk in Peterborough on May 30th. We had six attendees from Bowmanville: Tina (driver and treat master!), friend Laurie, Pamela, Valerie, Judy, and Mary-Anne. It was a beautiful spring day to march through downtown Peterborough, supporting an amazing organization and group of volunteers.

The Red Pashmina Walk became national this year, with walks in Vancouver, Victoria, Toronto, Ottawa, and Peterborough, raising more than \$6,000 for Afghan women and girls. Right to Learn Afghanistan (formerly Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan) has supported education for Afghan women and girls since 1998. They have accomplished so much:

- 700+ students in their online high school
- 4,000+ scholarships and devices provided
- 8,500+ free resources in their online library
- 10,000+ teachers trained
- 300+ libraries & science labs established

Their online high school has been named among the Top 50 schools for the Global Schools Prize 2026. This award celebrates the world's most innovative and impactful schools that are reimagining education for the future. We left inspired and impressed by the students, teachers and volunteers. Despite it being illegal for girls to attend school in Afghanistan beyond Grade 6, Right to Learn is finding ways to provide online classes to women and girls, and helping them to attend university overseas. For more about this amazing organization, check out their website at <https://righttolearn.ca>.



BPW Barrie 80th Anniversary

On Wednesday, June 10, Mary-Anne and Judy headed to Barrie to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of BPW Barrie with the theme of Empowerment, Leadership and Equity. The event was well attended with members and guests from many Ontario BPW Clubs. We were warmly welcomed by the President and members of the Barrie Club. A silent auction raised over \$1,800 for Georgian College's WOMEN'S inTUTION program assisting women with their educational costs.



As dinner was served, we heard from Suzie Addison-Toor who is Vice President of Student Success at Georgian College. Suzie told us how the College empowers women to challenge barriers and education creates and opens opportunities.

We then heard from Samatha Kinoshameg, Executive director of the Barrie Native Friendship Centre. The Centre supports vulnerable people especially those who have been trafficked. It draws on Indigenous teachings and stories, such as the braiding of the sweet grass where we learn each individual strand is weak but together the braid is strong. We are stronger together.

The third speaker, Jennifer Armstrong, Co-Founder, Politics for Women explained how her organization encourages and educates women about how to get involved in politics and the voting process. Check out her website at politicsforwomen.ca.

Upcoming BPW 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/>

Pamela will participate as BPW Bowmanville's Delegate and Sheila as our Alternate.

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/>

Tina, Pamela and Val will be attending on behalf of BPW Bowmanville.

Notable Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Valerie on September 3rd!

June Meeting – BPW Bowmanville Social!

It's time to party and celebrate our successes over the past year! Join us on **Wednesday, June 24th** at Judy's house at 5:30 PM to enjoy hamburgers, salads and strawberry shortcake. Bring your own drink. Please e-transfer \$25 to Val and let Judy know if you are attending.

Have a wonderful summer!

Bulletin Editors:

Mary-Anne Pietrusiak & Judy Hagerman

