

# BPW Virtual Newsbytes

Volume 2 Issue Number 1

November 2007

## President's Message

Recently while traveling to Mexico on a fall holiday, I began to reflect on our Virtual Club. The leaders, the chairs on our Executive Board in Virtual Club, kept coming to mind. So it is time to share with you the ways in which all of the members of the Board of the Virtual Club connect, engage, and take Virtual to a higher level. These leaders are above all else committed to the virtual club experience and sustaining it. They provide countless hours to our Club. They overcome the challenges of working virtually. They are innovative. These are our unsung heroes. As in the case of most in volunteer positions of leadership, our leaders are not lauded or recognized enough for their invaluable contributions. I have attempted here to give you some insight into how they work to serve you.

Shannon MacNeill, Founding Member, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Interim Membership Chair

Shannon is defining the role of the Vice President in pro-active terms. Shannon isn't someone who sits idly by waiting for direction but is someone who is always eager to share responsibilities and take on new tasks. With carefully crafted steps, she is facilitating the passage of a new Virtual Club into a strong, sustainable, and supportive club for its members. She readily provides direction and takes over in my absence. She works actively on the program committee, has assisted on membership and has agreed to take over membership for an interim period.

Kathy Laing, Secretary-Treasurer, Founding Member April 2006 to Present

Kathy's proficiency, good sense of humour, and attention to detail are a combination of traits found in those who sit at the heart of an organization and in this case BPW Canada Virtual Club. Kathy supplies us with timely minutes and accurate treasurer's reports. She is quick to note discrepancies and keeps us on track. Her lively disposition is well respected in BPW.

Crystal Sissons, Newsbytes Editor and Founding Member, is a super "lone" star on the Virtual Club Executive Board. Crystal stalwartly remains the steward of our Newsbytes. She is a true pioneer delving into the forest of BPW information, related women's advocacy issues, and historical resources to produce one of the finest virtual newsletters to date. So far the production rate has been 4 per annum. To keep up this rate of production Crystal would welcome having an assistant. Any takers?

Val Clemont Membership Chair Co-Chair September 2006 to April 2007 and May to August 2007

It goes without saying that one of the members of Virtual Club, Val Clemont, as the Membership Chair on the Executive Board, is a person with a high range of imagination, enthusiasm, and drive. With this special package of traits, she has reached out from her home in central BC to different parts of the country bringing in new members in her wake. Now for

personal reasons though, she will not be our membership chair any longer and she will be missed. We hope she will continue to work with us as a member.

Gale Coburn, By-Laws and Resolutions Chair to May 2006 to August 2007

Gale made an invaluable contribution to Virtual Club in this executive position. She was an exemplary parliamentarian, clever negotiator, and excellent wordsmith. Last year, she was instrumental in seeing that we submitted our first resolution, Access to the Human Papillomavirus Virus Vaccine for all Canadian Women. With very little assistance, she researched, drafted and presented this resolution in June 2007 at the Ontario Provincial Conference in Trenton and revised it for the AGM in Montreal in July 2007. At both gatherings of BPW members the resolution received favourable results. To make this an inclusive project with our Virtual Club Members, Gale further set up a blog where all of us could send our thoughts and comments. It was another technological achievement and first for Virtual Club. Currently, Gale's work commitments have increased so she will no longer be Chair of this committee but she will continue as a member. Hopefully, we can still call on her expertise to assist us with our technological challenges like setting up other blogs.

Allana Nicholas – Barnett, Program Chair

Allana is the newest member on the Executive Board really delved into her role as the Program Chair in June of 2007. Allana's sense of vision for our program is well defined in the design of the 2007-08 program scheduled for our General Meetings. When challenged with changes, she is quick to come up with program alternatives as revealed by the program for the October meeting on Immigrant Women. In her contributions to June 2007 Newsbytes, she poignantly shared her views and interests about the Orleans Women's Show and The Conference for Women: Professional Insights, Ideas and Innovations. Allana is certainly making our virtual experience virtually more interesting and exciting.

In conclusion, I am truly grateful to be a member of the Virtual Club and honored to be your President if for no other reason than to be able to work with these fabulous women.

Last but not least, you the members are at the heart of the Virtual Club. When we started BPWC Virtual Club on April 29, 2006, our key purpose was to just communicate ...let's see if we can still do that on a regular basis and make every effort to attend our monthly meetings. As virtual beings this is the only way we have to stay connected so let's just do it ☺



## Editorial

Welcome all to Volume 2 Issue 1 of the BPW Virtual Newsbytes newsletter! Inside you will find a wide range of topics from the welcoming of NEW MEMBERS, to movie accounts on books, movies and club news. The newsletter will take you around Canada and throughout the world, and thanks to its “virtual” nature you won’t have to go anywhere! So, I invite you to grab a cup of coffee, sit back at your computer and take off with the members of our club as we share, learn and grow!

Once you have had a chance to digest the news please bring your thoughts and ideas to the next general meeting. What did you like, what would you like to change? Was there something that you learned that surprised you? Did you find out something you did not expect or would like more information on?

Women’s history both past and present is woven through this edition on account of the celebration of women’s history occurring. As Vi notes the upcoming discussion on Martha Gelhorn and Elsie MacGill will be an exciting one! Get ready to meet a dynamic journalist and a pioneering woman engineer and feminist!! Kathy Laing submitted a wonderful quote to this effect from the *Globe & Mail* on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, stated by Martha Gelhorn to share which gives an idea of the caliber of women you will meet:

*“People will say with pride: “I’m not interested in politics”. They might just as well say, “I’m not interested in my standard of living, my health, my job, my rights, my freedoms, my futures or any future”.*

The current events noted below should also draw your attention. Both the recent speech by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean and the government response to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women call for us to get involved in the important events happening in Canada and around the world.

So here’s to another newsletter, and to the exciting possibilities of things to come!

Cheers to all!

Crystal Sissons

### *Current Events to Note:*

As always there are more current events to note, than is always possible for us to keep up with, but at the same time some inevitable stand out. Listed below are three key ones I would like to draw attention to, and hope that more discussion may be had about them.

- Speech by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean on the Occasion of the Presentation of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
  - This speech can be found in its entirety at:  
<http://www.gg.ca/media/doc.asp?lang=e&DocID=5204&printVersion=true> It notes the awards to the recent winners of the award including Mildred Burns, Shari Graydon, Éline Hémond, Wendy Robbins and Muriel Smith. Moreover she makes some key statements that we should take to heart:
    - *“At the start of the third millennium, I see feminism not as a battle between the sexes, but as an attempt to win our inner freedom, which must be achieved so that we are better able to think, speak and act. Think. Speak. Act. Say yes to life. Go as far as our dreams will take us. Take risks. For ourselves. For those following in our footsteps. For the future and for the world.... To empower women is to empower society itself.”*
- Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) AGM – October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
  - I attended this event. It was encouraging to see such a wide range of women there, from all age groups and backgrounds, and from a wide variety of work experiences. Topics discussed included fundraising for women's organizations, intersectional feminism, and the means for the future of feminist organization at the national level. I strongly encourage members to go their website and learn more about the amazing research that has been done and what yet is planned. We need to talk amongst ourselves as women to understand where we have been and what strategies for invoking change have worked and what still needs to be done. Besides BPW what other organizations related to women do you belong to? Let's discuss! How can we further strengthen our connections for positive change?
  - [http://www.criaw-icref.ca/indexFrame\\_e.htm](http://www.criaw-icref.ca/indexFrame_e.htm)
- Earlier last year in the newsletter it was noted that Sue Calhoun flew to Ottawa to present a brief for BPW on the Economic Security of Women. Kathy and I attended this presentation in support of her efforts for BPW Canada, and learned a lot in the process. The final report of the Standing Committee and the federal government's response are now available. See the links below for more information!
- Government Response to the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Status of Women, Improving the Economic Security of Women: Time to Act, October 25, 2007 (24 pages, html);  
<http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/CommitteePublication.aspx?COM=13186&SourceId=214785>
- Improving the Economic Security of Women: Time to Act, Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, June 2007, (88 pages, PDF).  
<http://www.bpw.ca/income-equity/Improving%20the%20economic%20security%20of%20women%20FEWO.pdf>

# Welcome to Our New Members!!!

## Jeanne Martinson

Jeanne Martinson is Managing Partner of Martrain Corporate and Personal Development, a Saskatchewan-based training company in its 15th year of business. As a best-selling author and strategist in workplace diversity, Jeanne's goal is to assist leaders in understanding diversity issues so they may attract, retain and engage their ideal workforce.

Jeanne's first non-fiction book, "Lies And Fairy Tales That Deny Women Happiness" explores the myths that many Canadian women are raised with and which limit their ability to have happy relationships and fulfilling careers. Her second book, "Escape From Oz - Leadership For The 21st Century" explores the parallels of the characters in the fable "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" and our own beliefs about personal and professional leadership. Jeanne's third book, "War & Peace in the Workplace - Diversity, Conflict, Understanding, Reconciliation" explores how workplaces are becoming more diverse and how that diversity can trigger conflict. The book illustrates how we have the choice of allowing conflict to spiral down into dysfunction or of taking charge, becoming aware and developing understanding. Jeanne takes a leading role in her community, a dedication that was recognized with the Canada 125 Medal of Honour, the YWCA Women of Distinction Award, the Centennial Leadership Award for outstanding contribution to the Province of Saskatchewan, and most recently, the Athena Award.

Jeanne has been listed in Who's Who of Canadian Women since 1996 and Canadian Who's Who since 1999. Jeanne is Past President of: Saskatchewan Training and Development Association (Regina Chapter), Saskatchewan Business and Professional Women, and Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan. She was Founding President of the Saskatchewan Chapter of the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers.

## Melanie Hill

I grew up on a small farm in southern Saskatchewan, and as such have been instilled with a great love of wildlife, the outdoors, and exploration. After completing two degrees at the University of Saskatchewan (English & Archaeology), I began my career as an archaeologist working for a relatively large consulting archaeology firm in Calgary. After a year, recognizing the limitations of staying in Calgary, I soon found the need to travel and experience new things. I jumped at the opportunity to work for a small, newly formed company in Fort St. John, BC that focused on their community & local First Nations groups, and providing quality archaeological services. This company and the province allowed me the opportunity to advance my career at an exponential rate. I worked my way up the ladder and have played an instrumental role in developing the company's products, services and reputation. It has been an exciting journey to grow alongside the company. I currently reside in Prince George, BC, having moved here in May to develop our new regional office. Aside from my career, my interests include photography, traveling, horses, and of course, dogs.

Working in an industry that is male-dominated at the management & ownership levels, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with very strong, independent, and knowledgeable women representing our clients. Although I have been working in the industry for nearly nine years, I feel that I have much to learn as my focus has shifted from archaeology to the human resources & quality of service aspects of business. I look forward to being a member of BPW and the opportunity to learn from the exceptional business women who are members.



***BPWC Virtual Club – Membership News – Shannon MacNeill, Interim  
Membership Chair***

On a visit to my home town of Regina in late August, I met with BPW Regina members Jeanne Martinson and Darlene Cleven. As Darlene is a national Vice President, our talk turned to the issue of dual membership with other BPW members. We have been battling this issue around for a year, so Jeanne and Darlene decided they would become our first dual members, and that we would propose a rewrite of both the national and virtual bylaws to reflect this new membership category. While this is still a pilot project, I think this initiative will be a tremendous benefit to the virtual club and will bring us closer to clubs across Canada.

I also had the pleasure to welcome Melanie Hill, a new virtual member from Prince George, BC. Melanie is also a transplant from Saskatchewan and appears to like adventure (is that a helicopter you are flying in?) so I am hoping she will bring her enthusiasm for exploring the unknown to our Virtual Club. Melanie heard about Virtual Club through her sister, a BPW Regina member, and was encouraged to join by Darlene. Welcome to Melanie, Jeanne and Darlene!

Life is always in change, and while we welcome new members, we say good bye to old friends. My virtual mentor, Val Clemont has decided to hang up her BPW spurs, and ride into the sunset of the BC Cariboo's. Val has been a valued Virtual Club member for the last two years, and has always brought a smile to our faces with her no nonsense approach. I wish Val well on her new adventures in life, and will always remember our friendship.

My little out post in Vernon must be on the "places to visit" list this fall. I had the pleasure of playing host to Jeanne Martinson in late September, as she was doing a HR conference here. I was also delighted to have coffee with National president Fran Donaldson, and vice presidents' Sue Calhoun and Barb Ezart as they passed through from Penticton to Kamloops. We talked about the first two years of BPWC Virtual Club, our trials and successes. My final BPW visitor this fall is Val Clemont. Val and I have struck a mentorship through virtual club, and I so look forward to finally giving her a real live hug!

While our virtual club is a unique enterprise, increasing our membership still comes by the old fashion way, of club members talking to interested women about who we are and what we do. This is where dual membership can expand our membership base, as greater exposure to other clubs in Canada will spread the word to interested women who do not have access to a local BPW Club.



**Transportation Person of the Year – Changing Stereotypical Thinking**

Canadian women have been active participants in a broad spectrum of scientific endeavours for several hundred years and generally are not recognized for their achievements in areas typically dominated by men. Many of these women faced enormous challenges in their personal and professional lives. Despite these challenges, they have made significant contributions to scientific research, achieved firsts in their fields and furthered the advancement of women in non-traditional areas of activity.

While recent statistics on the participation of women in scientific professions show an increase in fields such as medicine, women are still under-represented in professions in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics (Statistics Canada, *Women in Canada 2004*).

Canadian women are strong advocates for women's involvement in the sciences and in encouraging young women to pursue scientific careers. Physicist Ursula Franklin believes that women provide an essential focus on community and interdisciplinary, without which scientific research would be impoverished. Monique Frize, an electrical engineer and professor, actively promotes careers for women in the sciences and engineering by giving school presentations to students in Grades 5 to 12.

"So why do we know so little about [women in science]?" asks Marianne Goszotonyi Ainley in the introduction to *Despite the Odds: Essays on Canadian Women and Science*. In response, Ms. Ainley notes that women must overcome many barriers to enter the world of science and technology, including limitations on higher education and career advancement, which are reinforced by stereotypical thinking about the appropriate roles for women. As a result, even today, few women hold positions of power in the sciences.

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) receives nominations for Transportation Person of the Year from their members in North America. Candidates for this award must have assumed leadership roles during their career that have contributed to the improvement or advancement of the transportation industry as a whole or any of its modes or segments.

Geni Bahar, an immigrant from Brazil who came to Canada 13 years ago was honoured for her efforts, over the decades, as a road safety advocate and leader and presented this very prestigious award at the Awards Banquet during TAC conference on October 17, 2007 in Saskatoon. I have been attending this conference for about 15 years and I believe that this is a first for the association.

Ms. Bahar, who is Vice-president of iTRANS Consulting Inc. in the Toronto area, has dedicated herself over her 27-year career to promoting traffic and road safety engineering. She has been a leader in advancing road safety in North America, working tirelessly to conduct safety research, to advance the state-of-the-art, to educate and train professionals in the science of traffic safety, and to coordinate multidisciplinary teams in a wide variety of safety projects. (Continued...)

***“Meeting The Honourable Madam Justice Rosalie Siberman Abella”***

***By: Kathy Laing***

I have been invited by my daughter –in-law Susan, to attend a dinner at the local Chelsea club on November 5<sup>th</sup> to hear the guest speaker - The Honourable Madam Justice Rosalie Siberman Abella.. I will report on this event in another newsletter. On a personal note it was at the Chelsea club that I became a BPW member in 1979!

I am sure that all members will remember Justice Abella’s appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2004. She was the first Jewish woman to sit on the Canadian Supreme Court Bench and is an inspiration to many women..

Justice Abella was born in a displaced persons camp in Stuttgart Germany in 1946. She immigrated to Canada with her family in 1950. She graduated from the University of Toronto Law School in 1970; married Irving M.Abella (Professor of Canadian history) in 1968; and had two children, Jacob in 1973, and Zachary 1976. She was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1992.

Justice Abella is considered to be one of Canada’s experts in human rights law, has been a chair of the Ontario Labour Relations Board , the Ontario Law Reform Commission, and a board member of the Human Rights Commission. She was the sole commissioner of the 1984 Royal Commission on Equality in Employment in which she coined the term “employment equity”.

Justice Abella has received at least 23 honorary degrees and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

You can find more information regarding Justice Abella on the many websites about her life and career. I am looking forward to hearing, and seeing her in person.

## Women Making History in Journalism

By: Vi Andersen

In our June Newsbytes, our editor, Crystal Sissons stated, "In order to keep the spirit of our work well-rounded and full we need to know our past and teach it to those around us."

I see this as our opportunity to pick up on this historical theme.

For part of the November General Meeting of the Virtual Club, I will be presenting research I have completed for my Barrie Book Club known as Bluestockings. My topic is a craft of journalism called reportage to be pronounced as *rehpawrtage* as though it were a French word. An American woman Martha Gellhorn, 1908 – 1998, was especially adept in this craft of reporting. She was one of the first women war correspondents having submitted her first articles to *Colliers* from the war ravaged streets of Madrid during the Spanish Civil War. She went on to write *A Sticken Field*, a novel about Czechoslovakia during the insurgence of the Nazi troops and articles about the war at the front in the Finnish Winter War. She was on the beaches of Normandy in a hospital ship during World War II. Writing always in the style of reportage, she wrote with honesty, clarity and exactness delving into who, what, when, why and how without losing sight of the narrative."

When she became Ernest Hemingway's wife for a short 5 years, she traveled with him to China to the Burma Trail and the battle fronts on donkeys and mud paths in the rain. She also flew alone to battle sights to get the details needed for accurate reporting of facts. As a world citizen, she traveled extensively to Mexico, Europe and Africa finding homes in Cuernavaca, London, England and in Tanzania??.

Martha Gellhorn exemplified what so many other women in our Canadian society strive to do today. I speak of the gifted and insightful reporters and journalists who have reported from the streets of our country and afar. The woman at the top of my list is June Callwood an exemplary social activists and journalist.

Martha spent an entire lifetime honing and working her craft of reportage. She was always keen to go where there was action. Her *modus operandi* was to write about the human condition of the people affected by war and adverse conditions.

***During our November General MSN Meeting, let's share our stories of women journalists in Canada whose stories you listen to or read.***

***Who are these women journalists, how are they making history now, and what do you especially like about them?***

## "Shake Hands With the Devil" A Review Crystal Sissons

On Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 "Shake Hands with the Devil", a Seville Films production, had an early premier in Ottawa, Ontario at Empire Theatres. The movie is based on the book by Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire of the same name, and opened officially in theatres on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The movie has met with acclaim being the official selection of the Toronto International Film Festival for 2007 and Winner of Best Actor at the Atlantic Film Festival, for Roy Dupuis' excellent portrayal of Romeo Dallaire. Through BPW's connection with Carol Levell of V Kelly's Association Inc. in Toronto, Ontario, free tickets were made available for the Ottawa screening, which was attended by BPW Virtual Club members Kathy Laing and Crystal Sissons.

The movie covers the difficult mission Romeo Dallaire had while he was in charge of the UN peacekeeping mission in Rwanda, which evolved in a massive genocide. While the subject of the film is not an easy one to deal with, it is well handled and balanced. It does not whitewash the seriousness of the situation, nor does it deal only with the violence which occurred. In fact, it traces the developments from Dallaire's arrival in Rwanda and allows the viewer to better understand the difficulty of the situation he was in, in having to work for peace, but having minimal resources at his disposal. Moreover the film allows for a better understanding of the political challenges that can impede action. It is all too easy, especially from a distance, to chastise the key players involved in working for peace or the resolution of social problems. The film makes it clear the degree that politics play in world events such as the tragedy in Rwanda, while specifically illustrating that in regards to the United Nations if the will of various member states is not in the interest of action – action will be either complicated, delayed, or simply not occur.

BPW Canada members should make an effort to see the film. In fact, I would recommend setting a deadline for all members to see the film and then to have a meeting dedicated to its discussion. It is an experience that will make members want to take action for change. Additionally, as the Commission on the Status of Women approaches again in New York, NY this winter its relevance will be all the more clear. We need to understand international events, the organizations which interact and respond to them, the politics involved, and our role with them. Given that this film centers of the work of a Canadian it is easier to identify with, as it is harder to distance oneself from events which should be remembered and responded to!

For more information about the film see the official site at: <http://www.shakehandswiththediavilthemovie.com/english.html>

# BPW Canada Virtual Club is a Growing Concern in BPW



**[Above: Hi to Vi at Home!]**

Who would have ever thought in 1997, just 10 short years ago, that there would be BPW Members:

- Communicating virtually across the country with other members in the group acting as though they all belonged to the same BPW Club
- Holding meetings on MSN Live, that is, on live time and having members in Nova Scotia and British Columbia attending a meeting in their pajamas or comfies in front of a computer
- Setting up blogs to have an ongoing message board on an important topic like a current resolution
- Creating an exemplary newsletter, Newsbytes

These innovative ways illustrate how we operate within this newly formed BPW Canada Virtual Club chartered on April 29, 2006. Ultimately, being part of it is the real “McCoy”. If you are interested in jumping on board for a meeting let us know. Contact Shannon at [macfolk@telus.net](mailto:macfolk@telus.net)

Every month we are learning another approach and way to communicate. We are technologically challenged in many ways but as we research and explore yet another means of communicating appears. In fact, as recently as last evening, Shannon and I held an on-line telephone discussion on MSN using our computers to speak instead of our phones. Our next step is to have a teleconference using our computers with our Executive Board. We know there are sophisticated means of operating on line with web imaging, etc. When these means become cost effective, they too will be added to our features.

Members who bring their varied talents keep us buoyed as a Virtual Club floating in cyber space. Dr. Shannon MacNeill, is 1st Vice President and Interim Membership Chair from Vernon. Kathy Laing, Secretary / Treasurer and Allana Nicholas-Barnett, Program Chair both reside in Ottawa. Crystal Sisson, Editor of Newsbytes, lives in Gatineau, Quebec and yours truly, President, lives in Barrie. Our members are also in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

So you ask what does one do as a BPW Canada Virtual Club member?

- Well, to date we have put together 4 newsletters called Newsbytes. These are posted on the BPW Canada National website under [www.bpwcanada.com](http://www.bpwcanada.com) under Virtual Club tab.
- We have submitted the resolution, Access to Cervical Cancer Vaccine (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – HPV) for all Canadian Women which passed at the Ontario Provincial Conference and the Montreal AGM June and July 2007 respectively.

- Furthermore, we have written and have had passed two commendations. For Stephen Lewis, BPW commends Mr. Lewis for his efforts to give a greater voice to women of the world and setting up the initiative to establish a United Nations Agency for women to advocate for a greater voice for all women of the world. For Grand master Tae E. Lee and his Instructors we wanted to laud their efforts on behalf of women by teaching self defence methods to overcome violence against women as they celebrate 30 years of Taekwondo and Martial Arts. Both commendations were passed by the National BPW assembly in 2006 and 2007.
- We hold monthly General Meetings on MSN Live every third Wednesday evening starting at 8:45 – 10:00 p.m. AST, 7:45 to 9:00 p.m. EST and 5:45 – 7:00 p.m. PST. Our program agenda is very innovative and allows us to expound our views about working women's issues and related concerns. In October we shared our views on Canada's Immigrant Labour Market during our October General Meeting.
- We plan to meet BPW members by attending the National BPW Convention in Winnipeg in July 2008 and the World Congress in Fall of 2008 in Mexico City.

It's about having fun and exploring! Come on board for a meeting and see for yourself "virtually" ☺

November 21<sup>st</sup> General Meeting is about Women & History - Ms MacGill & Martha Gellhorn!

Contact us for tips on how to start your own Virtual BPW Club in your country [viandersen@sympatico.ca](mailto:viandersen@sympatico.ca)

### **Business and Professional Women Canada Virtual Club**

BPW Canada has been working towards improving the economic, political, social and economic conditions for women for over 75 years.

### **Get Involved and Make a Difference!**

- Debate public policy and lobby the federal government for change on women's issues
- Develop leadership skills to transfer to your business and personal life
- Attain personal growth with virtual seminars and MSN discussions
- Network with accomplished women across Canada and the world
- Mentor with the support of other virtual club members

Have time constraints due to work and family obligations? No local BPW club? Live in remote or rural areas of Canada? BPW Canada's new Virtual Club may be for you. BPWC Virtual Club allows women to work from the comfort of their homes or office when time permits. Our membership interacts monthly with MSN Messenger meetings, and communicates regularly by email.

For more information, go to [www.bpwcanada.com](http://www.bpwcanada.com) and scroll to the Virtual Club area or email our president, Vi Andersen at [viandersen@sympatico.com](mailto:viandersen@sympatico.com) or membership, Shannon MacNeill at [macfolk@telus.net](mailto:macfolk@telus.net)

*Hope to have more group pictures next summer when we meet in Winnipeg.*

*[Crystal, Vi & Kathy @ the 2006 BPW Convention in Toronto, Ontario – That's When We Became OFFICIAL!!!!]*



## ***Transportation Person of the Year (continued)***



Ms. Bahar's expertise was recognized when, in 2000, the U.S. National Academies awarded its first project ever to a non-American consulting company.

Ten years ago, Ms. Bahar applied her hands-on approach to lead the Ontario Government's largest undertaking in the development and implementation of a road safety management system. Today, "The Science of Highway Safety", as it is called, has significantly advanced the practice of road safety throughout the province. Ms. Bahar has subsequently taught "The Science of Highway Safety" to transportation professionals across North America, and this course has evolved into one of the more popular offered to state departments of transportation by the U.S. National Highway Institute.

Ms. Bahar has demonstrated her commitment to clearly conveying tangible state-of-the-practice traffic and road safety engineering. This is evidenced in a number of industry-known reference materials in the development of which she has played a key role. These include integrated safety management and performance measurement tools.

She has empowered public agencies to better manage their assets, by using more cost-effective analytical tools and solutions, to prevent future road collisions. One such tool allows for the effective diagnosis and analysis of collision sites.

Ms. Bahar has provided leadership through her education of practitioners, her participation on professional committees and her presentations at conferences on both the national and international scenes.

Ms. Bahar's hard work and dedication to the practice of traffic and road safety engineering throughout her career have provided engineers and other professionals with the tools and the knowledge to incorporate safety as an integral part of transportation planning and road design.

In Ms. Bahar's acceptance speech she made some startling statements about safety on roads in Canada and took the liberty of asking that we reflect on how we can all make a difference.

"Here in Canada, we have adopted the goal of making Canada's roads the safest in the world. We have made progress in the past ten years, and in 2002, we adopted the Road Safety Vision 2010 for this magnificent country of ours. However, 2,923 Canadians were killed on our roads and more than 210,000 were injured in 2005. How sad and preventable it is, that over 30% of the drivers and 60% of the pedestrians killed were drunk. How terribly sad it is that about 300 of those killed on our roads in 2005 were young drivers. We should not tolerate such carnage on our roads. ...how we can make a difference."

Ms. Bahar's achievements are enormous and women who hear about her and others like her triumphs and successes must do more to promote the achievements made by women who contribute so much to our every day living. In her

closing remarks, she herself continues to understand how important her role is. "More than ever, I feel the responsibility to contribute in every way I can to preserve the lives of road users in Canada and elsewhere."

And now you know about a Canadian woman who has made a difference to lives of people in Canada.

And with that, there is a challenge for all members in BPW to take the time to find out more about people you know in your world, and if there are BPW members or not, then announce their achievements in the form of recognition, awards, newsletter articles or what ever other medium you can use, so that everyone can know how women make a difference in the world.