

BPW Connections – Coast to Coast Connexions BPW – d'un océan à l'autre

The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs La Fédération Canadienne des Clubs de Femmes de Carrières Commerciales et Professionnelles

BPW Canada National Newsletter – Volume 3, Issue 4, Fall 2007 Editors: Sue Calhoun & Judy Hagerman

President's Message

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JULY 7, 2007

Nearly 50 members from across Canada gathered on July 7 for the 2007 AGM, hosted by the Montreal club. Many also attended the Mid-term Meeting of the Board of Directors in the morning, followed by a buffet lunch.

Young BPW Presentation

Prior to the AGM, Young BPW Vice President Julie McSorley gave a presentation entitled *Young BPW: Recruitment and Succession Planning.* Julie outlined the characteristics of Generation X and Generation Y, and challenged us to think of what our clubs need to do and to be in order to attract the young members we need to ensure the future of our organization. Her points provided an excellent follow-up to discussions at the Strategic Long-Range Planning committee meeting the previous afternoon. Julie's PowerPoint presentation can be viewed and downloaded from the BPW Canada website (www.bpwcanada.ca).

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Report and Messages

President Fran Donaldson gave the Annual Report, based on the record of Actions of the Board of Directors, which was distributed with the June 2007 newsletter. The Annual Report is now on the BPW Canada website, in both French and English, along with messages from International President Chonchanok Viravan and International Vice President Liz Benham.

New Appointments

The Board of Directors recently approved the following new appointments:

- Linda Prafke has joined the Board of Directors as the new Provincial President for Saskatchewan, and becomes Champion of Women in Politics
- Darlene Cleven becomes Chair of Publicity and Public Relations (Standing Committee)
- Karin Gorgerat becomes Chair of Budget and Finance (Standing Committee and Executive)
- Judy Hagerman joins the Board as Chair of Editorial (Standing Committee), responsible for the newsletter and the content of the website.

These changes are included in the September 2007 update of the national Roster.

Financial

The audited financial statements for 2007 were approved, as were the budget report and the final report from Convention 2006.

Leadership Award

Darlene Cleven reported on plans for the BPW Canada Leadership Award, to be presented at next year's convention. Jeanne Martinson (Regina) will again chair the ad-hoc committee. Darlene will act as liaison to the board, and Julie McSorley will be a member of the committee. Details of the award and nomination forms will be available soon on the website.

Convention 2008

Colleen Allan and Carol Pelton, co-chairs of Convention 2008 in Winnipeg, gave a presentation, including information on preregistrations. The Board of Directors previously approved the appointment of the co-chairs and the committee's budget.

Resolutions

Resolutions #2007/1 (Status of Women Canada), #2007/2 (Court Challenges program), #2007/3 (Stride Circles) and #2007/4 (HPV Vaccine) were passed, with minor amendments. Resolution #2007/5 (Child Labour in the Third World) was referred to the Board for decision because of insufficient time for debate, along with Emergency Resolution #1 (Commendation to Grand Master Lee). The final text of all approved resolutions is on the website, in both English and French.

Fran Donaldson, National President

Productive strategic planning session at AGM sets agenda for BPW Canada in coming years

BPW Canada's Strategic Long Range Planning (SLRP)
Committee held a half-day session prior to the Annual General
Meeting in Montreal in July. Co-chaired by President Fran
Donaldson and 1st Vice-President Sue Calhoun, the SLRP
Committee is made up of national Board members as well as
other key leaders in the organization.

The aim of the workshop was to lay the foundation for a three-to five-year Action Plan that will give us firm direction, and enable us to make the kind of impact that we want to make on behalf of women in Canada. The plan was intended to include goals, objectives and a list of deliverables and outcomes that are measurable on a yearly basis.

The workshop was very productive, albeit short. Participants looked at the current situation within the organization as well as the context (environment) in which we operate, and brainstormed about what they saw as a desirable and feasible future for BPW Canada. Despite the diversity of views, there was clear agreement on several key points, notably:

- BPW Canada's financial situation is not viable or sustainable at the current level of membership. The work of BPW Canada is done mostly by volunteers, who also work for a living, and it is difficult to provide an acceptable level of service operating this way. We need to focus on strategies to increase revenues.
- One very important such strategy for a member-based organization like BPW Canada is to BUILD MEMBERSHIP. Members are the "heart and soul" of BPW Canada but there aren't enough of us. BPW International has launched a membership drive, and BPW Canada should also focus on building membership through two strategies: 1) attracting and retaining members in existing clubs; and 2) starting new clubs.
- There was a lot of discussion about the various levels in BPW (i.e. local clubs, provincial organization, BPW Canada, BPWI) and their inter-connectivity. As observer/reporter Sheila Crook (BPW London) wisely noted, local clubs would not exist if BPW Canada

didn't, and BPW Canada wouldn't exist if local clubs didn't. Everyone agreed on the need for better interlevel communication, greater understanding of what happens at each level of the organization and why each level is critical to the effective functioning of the whole.

Given the time limitation, the SLRP Committee has only just begun. Members will be flushing out details of the Action Plan in the next little while. There was solid agreement that the above three points were priority issues, and therefore will be driving the actions and decisions of your National Board over the next few years. Other suggestions were duly noted for further consideration by the executive and committee chairs.

The SLRP committee also developed a mission statement, based on the existing membership model and reflecting our important principles and core values:

BPW Canada develops the professional and leadership potential of women in Canada through education, awareness, advocacy, and mentoring within a supportive network.

The members of the SLRP Committee are:

Fran Donaldson, BPW Canada President fdonalds@magma.ca
Sue Calhoun, BPW Canada 1st Vice-President scalhoun@nbnet.nb.ca
Darlene Cleven, BPW Canada Vice-President dcleven@sasktel.net
Barb Ezart, BPW Canada Vice-President and BC Provincial President bbezart@shaw.ca

Doris Hall, BPW Canada Vice-President <u>doris.hall@curocom.ca</u> Julie McSorley, BPW Canada Young Vice-President <u>julie.mcsorley@rbc.com</u>

Barbara Hall, BPW Canada Secretary-Treasurer <u>barbarahallbpw@shaw.ca</u> Darla Campbell, BPW Canada Immediate Past President <u>darla@amonavi.com</u>

Judy Hagerman, BPW Canada Editorial Chair judyrobt@durham.net
Linda Prafke, SK Provincial President bmg@sasktel.net
Colleen Allan, MB Provincial President callan@afm.mb.ca
Karin Gorgerat, ON Provincial President karin.g@sympatico.ca,
Joan Macklin, QC Provincial President jmacklin@videotron.ca
Wilma Evans, NB Provincial President wilma.evans@rbc.com
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Sheila Crook, BPW London fcrook2@rogers.com
Jill Worobec, BPW Richmond jillw@pro.net,
Julie Leclerc, BPW Québec Julie_Leclerc@abitibiconsolidated.com
Vi Andersen, BPW Virtual Club viandersen@sympatico.ca

International Taskforce Appointment

BPW Greater Moncton is pleased to congratulate member Maureen Craig-McIntosh on her appointment to the BPW International Mentorship Taskforce. Maureen is a former registered nurse, a professional speaker, a certified professional coach, and a past president of the William Glasser Institute Canada. Her education background and highly relevant skill set will no doubt be a great asset to this taskforce and its work. A member of BPW since 1985, Maureen served as BPW New Brunswick President from 2000-2002. She was also nominated for the BPW Canada outstanding woman of the year in 2002.

Margaret Pronyk 1942 – 2007



BPW Canada lost one of our Past National presidents September 13. Margaret Pronyk died after a difficult illness, and she will be missed by her BPW friends across the country. Margaret had been a member of our organization for over 30 years, most of those years in BPW Thompson, where she filled many roles including club president, and the last few years as a member of BPW Penticton.

Margaret served a total of 12 years on the National Board, and was president of our Canadian Federation from 2000 to 2002. Her belief in what BPW stood for was strong, and she put her whole heart and soul into her work with the organization.

Margaret was born in Winnipeg, and lived most of her life in Thompson, Manitoba. She was a woman who cared deeply about her family, was devoted to her husband Fred, proud of her children Brenda and Rob, grandson Daniel, and son-in-law Denny, and pleased to be welcoming Rob's fiancé Denise into the family. She was a hockey grandma, following Daniel's career with great passion and going to the games whenever she could, always waiting to hear from him about the games she missed. I suspect Margaret will continue to be at Daniel's games, because she just wouldn't allow it to be any other way.

Margaret packed a lot of living into her life. She was a businesswoman in Thompson, where she raised her family; she looked after the books for small businesses in her community through her company Bird Bookkeeping. She made the time to be a school trustee, and I know how much she enjoyed that community work because her eyes sparkled as she talked about the children in the classrooms. Margaret worked as Returning Officer for provincial and federal elections, and she held positions on many Boards in her community of Thompson, including Airport Authority Board and Chamber of Commerce. She was also a Life Member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Margaret believed strongly in mentoring; passing along her knowledge and skills was very important to her and she was

For Margaret Pronyk **Her Journey's Just Begun**

Don't think of her as gone away - her journey's just begun. Life holds so many facets - this earth is only one.... Just think of her as resting from the sorrows and the tears, In a place of warmth and comfort, where there are no days or years! always there to help others, to listen and to give advice. She lent a helping hand to people she met in the business world, to fellow-BPW members, and to others in the community. She helped people believe in themselves, encouraged them to trust their instincts, reminded them that 'the biggest critic you have is yourself'.

A wise woman, Margaret was knowledgeable, and had an excellent memory. People trusted her judgement and respected her opinions. She strongly defended what she believed in, and she put heart and soul into everything she did. If something mattered it was worth doing well, and she attended to every detail. As one of her friends has said, she gave 150% all of the time. I admired the way she was always so clear about an issue; we might not always agree with her but we always knew exactly where she stood! She was also sensitive and caring, ready to sing other people's praises but humble about her own accomplishments. But the people of her community knew how hard she worked, and they made her Provincial Woman of the Year before she left Manitoba. One of the honours she most treasured was being chosen as BPW Canada's Woman of the Year, because she knew that was recognition by her peers.

Margaret was a spiritual woman, and she was very active in the United Church, both in Thompson and in Penticton. She worked on committees and church boards, and cherished her involvement in UCW, but her first love was singing in the choir. Music was an important part of Margaret's life; from the time she was a child she sang, and had a beautiful voice. She did solos for weddings and funerals, belonged to the Aurora Singers in Manitoba, and the Tune Agers choir in Penticton. One of the hardest things for Margaret when she learned of her illness was the knowledge that she would no longer be able to sing.

BPW Manitoba and Canada were fortunate to be the benefactors of Margaret's ability to work through difficult situations and pull people together for the good of the organization and what it stood for. A BPW mentor has physically left us but her legacy will live on.

Submitted by Peggy Whitley, BPW Penticton, with help from Susan Hancharyk, Elaine Elliott, Barb Ezart and Marge Donovan.

Think how she must be wishing that we could know today How nothing but our sadness can really pass away. And think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched, For nothing loved is ever lost - and she was loved so much. May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine on her. Warm regards,

Monica McNeil, Regional Coordinator, North America & Non-Spanish Speaking Caribbean

BPW Abbotsford-Mission holds Women of the Year Awards banquet

Celebrating women in Abbotsford and Mission, B.C.

Submitted by Connie Friesen, BPW Abbotsford-Mission

BPW Abbotsford-Mission held its annual Women of the Year Awards banquet in May of 2007. This event celebrates women in the communities of Abbotsford and Mission who have made a difference in their community. The nominating process is quite detailed and requires a commitment on the part of the three nominators. Our three judges have quite a difficult task, deciding which of these outstanding women should earn the title "Woman of the Year". There is one recipient for each of the two communities.



Bridget Findlay, President for 2005-07, with the Woman of the Year for Mission, Cathy Webster.



Bridget with the Woman of the Year for Abbotsford, Miki Boleen.

BPW Abbotsford-Mission also held its major fundraiser, which included an extensive silent auction, with \$2000 going towards two bursaries for girls graduating from high school who will continue their studies for a minimum of a two-year program in a post-secondary institution. Winners of \$1,000 each were Danica Fichtner and Kaila Kleiwer.

BPW Québec fêtes 60th anniversary

BPW Québec Métropolitain celebrated the club's 60th anniversary with a gala banquet on September 22. The event was held in a picturesque private club in the old city, near the Portes Saint-Louis. Many former members and past presidents of the club were in attendance, along with past provincial presidents Germaine Bolduc and Marie-Paule Préfontaine. The gourmet dinner was punctuated by snippets of the club's history, the presentation of long-service pins, and remarks by BPW Canada President Fran Donaldson, who emphasized the national and international networks of BPW. Guest of honour was MLA Nicole Menard, whose career in politics has been made possible by the support and encouragement of her husband and Quebec Premier Charest. BPW Quebec Provincial President Joan Macklin thanked the speaker for her words of encouragement and for being a role model for young women. The evening concluded with a witty tribute from a delightful clown, performed by a member.



From left, Leslie West, Secretary, BPW Province of Ouebec and President, BPW, Montreal; Suzie Lévesque, 2nd Vice President, BPW Province of Quebec; Germaine Bolduc, President, BPW Saguenay; Paulette Gauvin, President, BPW Quebec Metropolitain; Joan Macklin, President, BPW Province of Quebec; Nicole Côté, Treasurer, BPW Province of Quebec; Julie Leclerc, President, BPW Roberval; Lucette Garneau, Immediate Past President, BPW Province of Quebec.

BPW Greater Moncton experiences great growth

The BPW Club of Greater Moncton has experienced a dynamic year of positive growth and change. Membership increased from 62 members in September 2006 to 117 members in May 2007, including 38 YBPW members. Happily, growing pains have been minimal and the club is thriving. Over 60 members have been actively involved in standing and ad hoc club committees, and five members currently serve on National Committees. As a result of surpassing our membership goal for the year of 100 members, we celebrated with a 32 page newspaper supplement published on April 17th and distributed to 40,000 homes. Entitled "100 STRONG", the publication showcased each BPW Greater Moncton member in a ½ page feature with photograph and biography.

Other goals this year included improving the financial state of the club, partnering with other women's clubs, and raising the BPW profile in our community and province. Julie McSorley is our club spokeswoman on the E.I. issue and has done an amazing job

BPW Greater Moncton President Sharon Hale (centre) with members Nathalie Beers (right) and Darlene Teahen

gaining publicity for the national resolution and BPW in interviews in newspapers and business publications, and on CBC and Global television. In May, we joined the CFUW for the first time on their 45th annual Book Fair fund raiser. This has proven to be a great partnership with another wonderful group of women, which we hope to continue in the future.

On December 6th, the club held its first Bursary Fund Raiser Gala for 330 guests with a large silent auction, food, entertainment and lots of networking. The event was a great success, and funds raised will help increase the club's education bursaries. This event has been named "The Talk of the Town", and will be a bi-annual fundraiser for the club.

BPW Sudbury Women Entrepreneur Awards Gala



BPW Sudbury's Women Entrepreneur Gala evening on September 27th was a huge success! The participation from members was outstanding, and excellent feedback was received from all.

In the photo, from left, Jessica Valiquette, WEA Co-Chair; Fran Donaldson, President BPW Canada; Brenda Castonguay; Diane Daigle; Trish Morrison; Shirley Makela; Caroline McIntosh, Past President, BPW Sudbury; Dorothy Guitard and Rachel Proulx, WEA Co-Chair and Past President, Sudbury & BPW Canada.

Fourth International Young BPW Meeting in Seoul, Korea

Amazing opportunity to meet YBPW members from around the world

By Lianne J. Armstrong, YBPW Ontario armstrong@cohenhighley.com



Lianne J. Armstrong

The Young BPW Meeting in Seoul, Korea was an amazing opportunity to meet BPW members from around the world to share information about projects for Young BPW and brainstorm on the future on Young BPW. I was able to meet women from Nigeria, Cayman Islands, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brazil, Australia, South Korea, Pakistan, Taiwan, Germany and New York. Although each

club has issues unique to its country, there was always the underlying theme of empowerment of women.

My goal in attending the meeting was to gain knowledge on how to grow Young BPW in Canada. The biggest challenge is in finding value in BPW for young women. The very successful Young BPW Club appears to operate separate from the regular BPW Club. They have their own meetings, own speakers and own focus. A focus for many of the successful Young BPW Club is on volunteerism and giving back to their communities.

A very good example of a successful club is Young BPW Cayman Islands. This club has many annual events including the following:

- Back to School Drive Young BPW host a back to school drive to assist low income families to be adequately prepared with supplies for the school year;
- Earth day Cleanup Young BPW members wear t-shirts with BPW and Earth Day logos and remove hundreds of bags of litter and debris each year;
- Child Month In recognition of child month, Young BPW assist the Department of Children and Family Services by joining in their efforts in hosting a special family fun days around the island to celebrate childhood;
- Sexual Harassment and Stalking Task Force Young BPW has created a task force to investigate and provide the necessary legislative recommendations as it relates to the protection of victims of sexual harassment and stalking in the Cayman Islands;
- "Women Helping Youth with Choices" Members of the Young BPW make presentations to students of the University College of Cayman Islands under the theme "Women Helping Youth with Choices".

The Young BPW Cayman Islands hold several fundraising events throughout the year such as a psychedelic night, which was a 60's and 70's party that raised over \$1,300US. They also hosted a jazz and fashion show that was sold out and all proceeds went to the Youth Empowerment Program. In addition to their fundraising events, Young BPW Cayman Islands is funded in part through large corporate donations.

Young BPW Cayman Islands hold short lunch or dinner meetings every month in each other's homes or coffee shops. The Club also holds practical workshops such as basic car maintenance. In addition, Young BPW Cayman Islands has monthly breakfast socials at which time the club celebrates the accomplishments of its members.

The Young BPW Clubs in Australia are another example of successful clubs. Australia operates their National Young BPW Program through a Young BPW Board. In 2005, the Australian National Young BPW applied for and was given a capacity building grant from the Federal Government Department of Family and Community Services (Office for Women) – Women's Development in Leadership Program to develop a Board resource kit and support the initiative of the Board.

The Young BPW Board is technically not a board in its own rights but operates under the BPW Australia Constitution and is ultimately supervised through BPW Australia. The Board consists of nine members and a permanent mentor. The goal of the Board is to provide support to the Young BPW Program at a club, State and National level and ensure that it meet the needs of young members.

The Young BPW Board in Australia has undertaken various training and relationship development endeavours. Relationships have also been developed with many corporations and organizations in Australia in order to source potential sponsors, set up strategic alliances and build public awareness and profile BPW.

In my opinion, to grow Young BPW in Canada we must offer value to young members. This would likely entail having separate meetings, events and activities that focus on the interest of women in their 20s and early 30s. An obstacle is that most clubs in Ontario do not have a sufficient number of young members to have a separate Young BPW club within their club. Therefore, the focus must be recruitment, which is difficult if we cannot offer value. It is a "Catch 22".

Australia's Young BPW Board may be a good model for Canada or Ontario. An enthusiastic board of young women could focus on the goal of increasing membership and brainstorm and work together to achieve this goal. We could also twin with a successful Young BPW Club in another country such as Australia or Cayman Islands and seek guidance in growing our membership. The representatives from Australia and Cayman Islands were enthusiastic in wanting to assist other Countries in reaching the level of success that they have achieved.

Overall, a highlight of the International BPW Meeting was the opportunity to listen and learn from women who were enthusiastically growing their young BPW membership around the world. I intend to continue building on my relationships with these women and hopefully our exchange of ideas will be mutually beneficial to our clubs. Please contact me or BPW Canada YBPW Vice-president Julie McSorley (julietod@nb.sympatico.ca) if you want to work with us to "grow" YBPW in Canada.

BPW Greater Moncton honours long-time members





BPW Greater Moncton honoured its long-time members at its October meeting, with the presentation of long-service membership pins. From left, Marion Dryden (20 years); Wilma Evans (10 years); BPW Greater Moncton President Sharon Hale; Burnette Mitton (33 years); Wendy Sweet (30 years); Suzanne Thériault-Mitton (20 years); and Maureen Craig-McIntosh (20 years). Long-service pins (20 years or more) are available at no charge to clubs by contacting BPW Canada Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Hall at barbarahallbpw@shaw.ca (Photo by Déjà Vu, Moncton)

BPW Canada President's visit to B.C. clubs

BPW Canada President Fran Donaldson and 1st Vice-president Sue Calhoun visited BPW clubs in British Columbia in October, accompanied by Provincial President Barb Ezart. Thanks to Barb for all her organizing efforts, and members for their extraordinary hospitality! Check the BPW Canada website (www.bpwcanada.ca) for more photos.



BPW Abbotsford-Mission – From left, Barb Ezart, BC Provincial President; Helen Secco; Connie Friesen, BC 1st Vice-president; Fran Donaldson, BPW Canada President; Patricia Jappy-Loker, 1st Vice-president, BPW Abbotsford-Mission; Sue Calhoun, BPW Canada 1st Vice-president; Joanne Chartrand, President, BPW Abbotsford-Mission.



BPW Penticton – From left, Barb Ezart; Pauline McLeod, BPW Penticton 2nd Vice-president; Peggy Whitley, BPW Penticton Immediate Past President; Carole Davis, BPW Penticton President; Sue Calhoun, BPW Canada 1st Vice-president; Fran Donaldson, BPW Canada President; Marlene Trenholm, BPW Penticton Secretary; Char Schultz, BPW Penticton 1st Vice-president; Eileen Foster, BPW Penticton Treasurer.

Winnipeg, Manitoba - The place to be for

BPW Canada Convention 2008!



July 24 - 27, 2008

Plans are shaping up for BPW Canada's Convention 2008 in Winnipeg. We're developing an exciting line-up of activities and events, and we're looking forward to seeing you in Winnipeg in July of 2008!

- * Thursday Night: Opening Ceremonies: "A Taste of Manitoba" As BPW members gather from across the country and internationally, they'll be treated to the "Tastes of Manitoba". An event not to be missed!
- * Friday Night: Traditionally "free time" at our BPW Convention. We are organizing a number of possible activities for your enjoyment, including:
 - o Assiniboine Downs (Horse Racing): Dinner & Races;
 - o Celebrations Dinner Theatre: CSI Winnipeg: Little Murder on the Prairie
 - o Fringe Festival: www.fringefestival.com;
 - o Casinos: McPhillips and Regent Street;
 - o Red River Dinner Cruise.

Pre-Convention Workshops are in the planning stage. Stay tuned for further information and registration information.

For Pre and Post Convention Activities, check out:

- * Destination Winnipeg: www.destinationwinnipeg.ca
- * O Tours: www.otours.net
- * Prairie Dog Central: www.pdcrailway.com
- * River Interpretive Cruises: www.winnipeg.ca
- * Travel Manitoba: www.travelmanitoba.com
- * Discover Manitoba: www.discovermanitoba.ca

The Convention will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg (<u>www.fairmont.com</u>/). The promo code is GRCFB1. Book early!

Convention 2008 has made special travel arrangements with Westjet. Here's some booking information.

- * Flight schedule information is available on the website www.westjet.com.
- * Attendees should complete and submit their booking request forms by fax to 1-800-582-7072 or e-mail to conventions@westjet.com. See Attached Document (Word).
 - * Account has been set up for July 20/08 to August 1/08.
 - * Discount is 10% off lowest rate including seat sales.

As events and speakers are confirmed, BPW Manitoba will keep you informed.