



BPW Connections – Coast to Coast is the official publication of BPW Canada.

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Check out the website
www.bpwcanada.com

Welcome to BPW Victoria, BC!

By Sue Calhoun, BPW Canada President

It was my great pleasure to be in Victoria, BC on March 30th to charter a brand new club. Founded in 1921, BPW Victoria was one of the first Business and Professional Women's clubs in western Canada and one of the founding clubs of the Canadian Federation in 1930. The history of BPW Canada (*With Enthusiasm and Faith*) notes that BPW Victoria members were involved in a range of activities from attempts to help unemployed women during the Depression, contributing to the Women's Disarmament Committee in Geneva during World War II to a "Career Preview" program for high school girls.

Sadly, membership dwindled, and the club turned in its charter in 2008. Two short years later, the club has been re-chartered under the dynamic leadership of President Heidi Hunton and her team, 1st Vice-president Laura McConnell, Treasurer Beki Zajac and Secretary Catherine Prowse. With 14 founding members, these women are determined to learn more about BPW, to grow the club, and to get involved in making a difference in the lives of girls and women in Canada and around the world.

Jill Worobec, BPWI Regional Coordinator for North America and the non-Spanish speaking countries of the Caribbean, and BPW-BC president Connie Friesen were both present at the dinner as were a number of former members of the original club, some of whom have re-joined. All in all, a great evening! Look forward to hearing more from BPW Victoria.



BPW Canada President Sue Calhoun (centre) presents the charter to BPW Victoria President Heidi Hunton. With them is Connie Friesen, BPW-BC President.



A member of the original BPW Victoria club, Suzanne Dearman passes the gavel to new club president Heidi Hunton.

BPW Selkirk hosts housing forum



BPW Selkirk hosted a very successful workshop to raise awareness about the lack of affordable housing in the community. Front row, from left, Kelly Cook, Selkirk & District Chamber of Commerce Kerri Irvin-Ross, Manitoba Minister of Housing; Selkirk Mayor David Bell; Mark Mostowy, Executive Director of the Selkirk Friendship Centre. Back, BPW Selkirk members Elaine Elliot, Eleanor Panschuk, Marcia Bilkoski (President), Pat Kraus (Secretary) and Colleen Allan, also MB President.

BPW Baie Comeau celebrates International month



BPW Baie Comeau paid a tribute to BPW women around the world at its International month dinner in February. The guest speaker was Mme Antoinette Nango from West Africa (Ivory Coast) who spoke about her country and her life. More than 20 members were present at the Restaurant l'Orange Bleue de Baie-Comeau.

World AIDS Day in Toronto



BPW North Toronto was again a proud sponsor of the Toronto World AIDS day breakfast in December 2009. From right, WAD committee members Linda Rice and Nadia Homonko, both BPW North Toronto members.

Other club news

- Belleville BPW is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. Members plan to hold a banquet in the fall in conjunction with hosting the district meeting in October.
- BPW Comté Roberval recognized BPW's International month in February with the candle-lighting ceremony and a guest speaker, Haitian Guerline Soliane who lives in Roberval and who spoke about the earthquake in her country and events following.
- BPW Toronto is the oldest club in Canada, established in 1910 to address the issues of women in the workforce. BPW Toronto will sponsor the banquet at Convention 2010. *Don't miss it!*



BPW Baie Comeau President Nadine Huard with Mme Nango.

BPW Greater Sudbury fetes IWD



BPW Greater Sudbury's International Women's Day celebrations included the rhythmic sounds of beating drums and percussion instruments, played under the keen direction of Jeff Stewart (Spirit of World Drumming). It gave the evening an international flavour. BPW member Lin Gibson, chair for the evening, provided a slideshow outlining our BPW International 80 year history, and conveyed the International President's greetings followed by our traditional Candle Lighting ceremony.

What's new at national?

- BPW Canada was invited to make a presentation to the Standing Committee on the Status of women on March 17, 2010. This all-party committee is studying the issue of women and non-traditional jobs. The presentation was made by video conference from Moncton by BPW Canada President Sue Calhoun. Other presenters included Susan Russell from the Canadian Federation of University Women and Jacinthe Guay from Dimension Travail, a program for women in non-traditional jobs in Laval, QC.
- In February 2010, BPW Canada sent a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the three Opposition leaders and the media, calling on the government of Canada to act immediately to ensure that the Rights & Democracy committee remains an independent and non-partisan institute.
- In November 2009, BPW Canada made a submission to the Committee for Public Safety and National Security regarding Bill C-391 (to abolish the national Gun Registry) and Gun Control. We opposed the abolition of the Gun Registry. Visit bpwcanada.com to read the documents.

40th anniversary

The Royal Commission on the Status of Women

By Kathy Laing, BPW Virtual

Kathy represented BPW Canada at this event.

I attended the event on behalf of BPW Canada, January 27th on Parliament Hill. As you know, the Commission was formed under the direction of Prime Minister Lester Pearson's Liberal Government in 1967. At that time, the Commission held intensive public hearings across Canada. It was difficult for me to believe that it was more than 40 years since I attended one of the open meetings held at the Chateau Laurier circa 1968 - but I digress!

The morning panel included speakers Ellen Gabriel (President of the Native Women's Association of Quebec), Dr. Wendy Robbins (UNB Professor Women's Studies and English), Dr. Hedy Fry (MP Vancouver Centre), Kathleen Lahey (Queen's University Law Professor), Susan Bazilli (Director of the International Women's Rights Project U of Victoria), Charlotte Thibault (Conseil des Montrealaises) and Diane Majury (Law, Carleton University). Lunch was provided, and included a presentation by Flora MacDonald concerning her Afghanistan experiences.

The afternoon roundtable discussion focused on "Women's Economic Security." The participants were Alexa Conradi (President, Fédération des femmes de Québec), Leilani Farha (Executive Director, Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation), Patty Ducharme (National Executive VP, PSAC) and Maria Minna (Liberal Critic for Labour). Michael Ignatieff gave the closing remarks.

I was a little disappointed that references were not made to some of the women on the original Commission – such as our own Elsie Gregory MacGill.

Feminist History Society launches series

History has long favoured those who write it – so that's what the brand new Feminist History Society is doing, just in time to mark the 50th anniversary of second wave feminism activism in Canada. The non-profit organization will publish a multi-volume series of books depicting the richness and diversity of Canadian feminist activity between 1960 and 2010. Written by many different authors, and presented in a variety of formats, the collection will reflect our multi-talented and eclectic movement.



This unique, hardcover collection will be beautifully designed and bound as a series and published over the next decade. It will be sold in a "book of the year" format, with the first volume – a rich and varied collection of feminist "click" stories, edited by Marguerite Andersen – due for release in October 2010. The second book, to follow in 2011, will be a volume of reflections on the past and future by celebrated columnist and activist Michele Landsberg. For more information, please visit www.feministhistories.ca or email info@feministhistories.ca.

BPW Winnipeg Central honours BPW Ukraine sisters

By Audrey Wasylyshen

BPW Winnipeg Central Event Co-ordinator

This was a great event! For International Night 2010, we chose to honour our sisters in Ukraine. Our entertainer for the evening was Esther Juce who is well known in the Ukrainian community for her delicate performances on the Bandura (a 55-stringed instrument shaped like a harp that requires fingernails to play). She delighted us with her heavenly voice accompanied by the bandura.

Our main presentation was 'Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine.' Three women, Sylvia Todaschuk, Elsie Liwiski and Marcella Fostey who spent the month of December in Ukraine, distributing medical and surgical supplies to hospitals, graciously showed us what they did and where they went. They visited eight hospitals in total, and left supplies at each. These supplies included operating tables, medical supply cabinets, surgical tables, wheelchairs, commode chairs, baby cribs and bassinets, surgical tools and beds. These supplies were obtained from the hospitals throughout the province. Every hospital in the Ukraine had a lot of empty beds. The reason for that is because hospital care has to be paid for. There are no free services there. Doctors in Ukraine make \$300 US a month, nurses, \$70 US a month and maintenance workers, \$25 US a month. Doctors also have to look after the gardens and orchards when their duties as doctors are done for the day. There is no activity outside on the grounds like patients out for a walk or visitors wheeling around a loved one or people just visiting. Hospital beds are 10-12 in a room, side by side very close together. The hospitals are very sanitary and clean. Laundry facilities are ancient. Washing machines work but all linens and towels have to be hung outside. The ladies also visited a few orphanages where they saw beds, 10 to 12 in a very small room. One day when they happened to be there at noon, they saw that the children's lunch consisted of a bowl of broth and dried bread cubes. BPW Ukraine is doing a great job in helping their women. Please go to their website www.bpw.donetsk.ua/ and check out their activities.

After a delicious dinner, President Sharla led in the candlelighting service and included all who were in attendance. It was a very impressive ceremony. Thank you Sharla for a job well done.

BPW Canada Convention 2010 – Highlights

- Horseshoe Resort, one hour north of Toronto. Registration form is now on the website (bpwcanada.com). **BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW**, since the G8 will be next door in Deerhurst and the Horseshoe will get the overflow.
- Friday evening, June 18th, BBQ with our Ontario sisters.
- Convention starts Saturday morning, 8:30am. Resolution workshop first at 7:30am.
- Happy 80th birthday BPW Canada! We will be celebrating our history all weekend.
- BPW International President Liz Benham will be keynote speaker at noon.
- **MENTORING: THE NEXT STEP.** A follow-up to our AGM workshop.
- **1+1 = New power of BPW** membership drive. Prizes will be presented to winners, both clubs and individual members.
- Joint banquet with BPW Ontario and BPW Canada Saturday evening. Sponsored by BPW Toronto, a celebration of that club's 100 years of working for women. Presentation of long-service pins, Leadership Awards and more!
- Convention finishes 12:30 Sunday.

Advertising opportunities in 80th Anniversary Program Book

Your chance to reach business and professional women from across the country. Advertise your business, your club, your cause, your program.

Support Convention 2010!

Format : high resolution JPEG (300 dpi)

(No bleeds)

Black and white:

Full page: \$200.00

1/2 page: \$100.00

1/4 page: \$50.00

1/8 page: \$25.00

(BUSINESS CARD SIZE)

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Inside Front or Back Page: \$577.50

Size: 8-1/2 x 11", one inch margins

All prices include GST.

E-mail print-ready advertising to:

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Make cheques payable to: BPW Convention 2010
Send to: Carolyn Hull, Treasurer, 40 Wright Avenue,
Moncton NB E1E 2H4
Please include a hard copy of your ad with your cheque.

DEADLINE: May 15th, 2010