



The Business and Professional Women of Durham

President's Message

- President's Message
- Learning to Lead
- Did You Know?

Table of Contents:

2011 Program	2
Leadership	2
Members' News	3
Advocacy	3
Mentoring	4
Board Directory	4
About BPW	4

Change is happening. More women than men are graduating from high school and post secondary education. This is the moment in history that marks the dawn of women's move from economic emancipation to influence after thousands of years as dependants. According to Maddy Dychtwald, author of *Influence*: "Health and education gaps are closing in even the poorest nations on earth, redirecting women away from poverty and toward economic and political opportunities." In the United States alone, the number of women earning \$100,000 or more tripled between 1991 and 2001 and between 2000 and 2008, the average wage for women grew steadily while men's wages didn't grow at all. Women started their own business at double the rate of men. The fundamental change to a knowledge-based economy is about to give women an advantage over men as women equal or exceed the education levels of men in numerous countries around the world. This trend is growing worldwide and will no doubt have a powerful and dramatic effect. These economic forces cannot be ignored. Looking back over the last hundred years or so, women have come a long way but the journey is far from over yet.

Although it may seem stalled of late, women have been on a steady upward economic course. Barriers, external and sometimes internal as well, are still blocking the way, slowing the progress.

Women need to stand together to remove those barriers and regain the mo-

mentum to make the best use of this singular time of social and economic upheaval, innovation and rebuilding. If women can take advantage of this moment and use their growing economic power to influence the outcome, it will shape the world in ways we can only begin to imagine. Some of this might has already begun to affect the way international organizations such as the World Bank, and the United Nations' World Economic Forum view the importance of women's economic equality. "A nation's competitiveness depends significantly on whether and how it educates and utilizes its female talent," stated the *Global Gender Gap Report* by the World Economic Forum in 2007.

The revolutions in women's suffrage, access to birth control and improved education have given women the tools they need to move from survival or dependence to independence. The challenge we now face is to keep moving forward from independence to influence. To do that we need to identify what still stands in our way, how to make the changes we need to make and adjust to the ramifications from those changes: fiscally, socially, and personally. But most importantly we need to step-up and realize that there is more to life than security and independence. Women need to start asking themselves: "What is my legacy? How do I make a difference?" This window of opportunity won't stay open forever. The time is now. Change is happening.

Are you ready to answer the call?



The Importance of Learning to Lead

“Start doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

St. Francis of Assisi.

So why are leadership skills so important? After all, you don't want to go into politics, right? Or are you a sole proprietor of your own company? You work for yourself, by yourself and you intend to keep it that way. Well, leadership is not about being at the top of the ladder or at the front of the pack. It is about being able to influence others and affect the choices being made. It is about being able to make decisions, improve and innovate, and do the right things for the right reasons no matter how hard they may be. Position has little to do with genuine leadership. It is about disposition and discipline.

Leaders have the ability to make things happen, have strong people skills, problem-solving skills, self-discipline, strong work ethic and vision. But there is one test that will tell a person's leadership ability and that is to lead volunteers. When you can lead volunteers, you can lead almost anyone. Because with volunteers you have no leverage. They don't have to do what you ask of them. If you push too hard, they leave. If you don't push hard enough, they lose interest and they leave. If they don't feel connected, they leave. If they don't support the vision, they leave. If they don't feel appreciated, they leave. If they don't feel they are making a difference, they leave.

Working in a volunteer organization is a great way to improve on the leadership skills that you already have and to develop new ones without putting your paycheque on the line. You get to start small and work your way up to bigger things. By learning to how influence peers and support them in achieving their goals, you also develop skills that assist you in influencing not only your superiors and your employees but customers or clients as well. Leadership is action, not position. Helping others to do the same in a coordinated effort is the essence of leadership. By helping others, you also help yourself.



Did you Know?

BPW supports

Advocacy
Leadership
Networking
Personal Development



Upcoming Dinner Meetings

February 23- Human Trafficking: In Our Own Backyards, Timea Nagy
March 23 – Job Search in the New Economy, Rick Lea, Exec Dir DRLTB
April 27 – Ovarian Cancer: Listen to the Whispers, Angela Holzer
May 25 – AGM, Dealing with Conflicting Personalities
June 18 – Gourmet Fundraiser BBQ



Did You Know?

From the No-Nonsense Guide to Women's Rights by Nikki van der Gaag.

- New Zealand was the first country to grant women the vote in 1893
- Women in Kuwait won the right to vote in 2006
- Women make up two-thirds of the world's illiterates
- 1977 - "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" formed in Argentina to protest the disappearances of thousands during the military junta rule
- Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 in the developing world
- Much of women's work is unpaid and unrecognized
- Girls represent 57% of the world's out of school children

The photograph below was taken in the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The white head scarf is the symbol of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo who continue to march in the square every Thursday afternoon.



Club History

Our club's history goes back more than 20 years. An organizational meeting for BPW Durham was held in Sept. 1987 in Ajax. The first dinner meeting was held in November and the speaker was Joan Ann Evelyn. Charter night, January 20, 1988 was a special night for the club. Representatives from all levels of government and other BPW clubs attended the celebration as Durham was officially recognized as the 40th BPW club in Canada. At the request of President Lorna, I am working on compiling a history of our club. If any members have photographs from the

early days please let me know so I can include them. Once the history is complete it will be posted on the website!

BPW Members in the News

Team BPW Durham raised over \$ 2000 for the CIBC Run for the Cure in support of breast cancer research. Team members included Team Captain Renee Munro, Lorna Weston-Smyth, Kim Beatty, Pat Keays, Monica Olenroot Joanne Cox, and Laura Suchan. Be sure to join us on Sunday October 2, for Run for the Cure 2011!

The Business and Professional Women of Durham

P.O. Box 66126,
Town Centre P.O.
1355 Kingston Rd.
Pickering, ON
L1V 6P7

E-MAIL:
4brdd@bpwdurham.com

COMMUNICATIONS
4newson@bpwdurham.com

RESERVATIONS:
2resrv@bpwdurham.com

MEMBERSHIP:
2join@bpwdurham.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bpwdurham.com

&

Facebook

www.facebook.com/BPWDurham

BPW Durham Membership Mentoring Program

Consider joining the mentoring program. This is a program with proven results in other clubs and can be inspiring and motivating to both mentor and protégée.

Mission of the Program

To create and grow formal supportive mentoring relationships amongst BPW Durham members that will make a positive impact in professional and personal lives of both the mentors and protégés.

Vision of the Program

To grow and develop diverse mentoring relationships that will have a positive impact on the professional and personal lives of its participants as well as further enhance the supportive and nurturing culture of the BPW Durham organization.

Program Goals

- To support BPW's cornerstones of leadership and professional development.
- To support BPW Durham's vision of empowering women to reach their full potential.

For more information or to join the program contact Lorna Weston-Smyth.

BPW Durham Board Directory

President	Lorna Weston-Smyth	1prez@bpwdurham.com
Past President/ Communications	Kim Beatty	4newson@bpwdurham.com
Vice President/ Eclipse Editor	Laura Suchan	1stvp@bpwdurham.com
Treasurer	Brenda Riviera	treas@bpwdurham.com
Secretary	Pat Keays	recsec@bpwdurham.com
Meetings (Reservations)	Joanne Cox	2resrv@bpwdurham.com
Special Projects	Laura Suchan	advoc@bpwdurham.com
Promotions/Membership	Renée Munro	2join@bpwdurham.com
Bursary/International	Joyce Marshall	edufund@bpwdurham.com
Personal Development	Monica Olenroot	4brdd@bpwdurham.com
General Enquiries		4brdd@bpwdurham.com
Eclipse Editor	Laura Suchan	2eclipse@bpwdurham.com

About Our Organization...BPW Durham

The Business and Professional Women of Durham advocates for women's issues and improving the status of women in business, the professions and in industry.

We do this by:

- Creating Connections
 - Offering forums for discussion and debate of current issues of concern
- As well as
- Providing methods of positive change through our community, our provincial, national, and international BPW Chapters

BPW offers opportunities to develop leadership skills, and relationships, both personal and professional.

BPW Durham celebrated our 20th Anniversary in January 2008.

Visit our website at www.bpwdurham.com or on facebook (www.facebook.com/BPWDurham) for more information

