

# BPW NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 19-20, 2010

This biennium, BPW Ontario held their provincial conference June 18<sup>th</sup>, the day before the National Convention, with the goal to encouraging more Ontario members to attend both events. The result was that there were 104 women registered for our national convention and the celebration of 80 years of BPW.



Char Schultz and I (Connie Friesen) traveled to the Convention in Barrie, Ontario, from Vancouver with Jill Worobec, BPW Coquitlam, and Regional Co-ordinator for BPW International. We arrived on Thursday evening, and Char and I had Friday to enjoy the lovely weather at the Horseshoe Resort in Barrie.



This was the meeting room taken from the back of the room where the simultaneous translation booth was set up. With the number of attendees the room was rather crowded, but definitely added a note of intimacy to the atmosphere.

Morning started early with a 7:00 am breakfast. Friday morning consisted of a tribute to BPW Haiti, a memorial for members who passed away in the past two years, our national resolutions (which were all passed and will be seen in their final form on the website shortly). At lunch, we heard Liz Benham, our international BPW President. Her enthusiasm is quite contagious. The prizes for the 1+1 membership drive were chosen by drawing a club or individual name out of all the entries. (Sorry BC).

On Friday afternoon, we heard reports of the finance & budget committee. The other reports were all submitted and were included in our binders to be read.

There were three nominees for two Vice President positions, two nominees for one Secretary's position and no nominees for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

The results for the BPW Canada Executive for 2010-2012:

President:	Doris Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President:	open (can be appointed by the president)
Vice Presidents:	Vi Anderson Connie Friesen
Young BPW Vice-President:	Lia Robinson
Secretary:	Sheila Crook
Treasurer:	Karin Gorgerat

Following the election of candidates, Fran Donaldson gave a Mentoring Workshop – the next step.



The new executive was piped in by a piper into the evening banquet.



For the banquet, the ladies dressed in their finery. You will recognize Char Schultz, our provincial president, as second from the left.



Connie with Colleen Allen, BPW Manitoba President.



This picture doesn't do justice to this amazing woman. Dormer Ellis was an electrical engineer, at a time when women did not go into engineering. She has her doctorate and taught engineering at university. When she became visibly pregnant (although married, she kept her maiden name and called herself Miss Ellis), there was some "concern". Back then women did not work after marriage, and certainly not while pregnant. Her classes consisted of all young men, who petitioned the principal to allow her to continue teaching. She is considered by her former students as their best teacher. Her talk was most interesting and I could have listened much longer to her gentle sense of humour and her experiences that make us realize that we have made progress as women.



Lia Robinson, Vi Anderson, Jill Worobec, Doris Hall, Sue Calhoun, Sheila Crook  
Connie Friesen Gabriella Cononica, Karin Gorgerat  
(1<sup>st</sup> VP BPW International, Switzerland)



This leadership award was given to Laura Noble, whose name you might recognize as our national webmaster. She was handed her award by Henrike von Platen, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President of BPW Germany (on the far left). The membership hangars for BPW members starting at 20 years and going up to 60 years were also handed out. BC had quite a representation in this category.



The after party in one of two hospitality rooms.

Sunday morning saw the delegates deal with the by-law amendments, the budget for 2010-2012 and the BPW Canada Code of Conduct. Please check out the members-only pages for all this information.

After the break, we had a speaker that touched all of us very deeply. Timea Nagy was trafficked out of Hungary into Toronto 10 years ago. Today, as a survivor, she has started an organization to help the victims of human trafficking here in Canada. The organization, Walk-with-me, is just beginning, and the members were so touched that they took up a collection for the new group and raised over \$700. This presentation was followed by the #1 resolution on human trafficking and passed with some new additions.

There was one bid for Convention 2014 by Saskatoon that everyone was very pleased to accept.

Convention is a great time to get to meet and share with the members across Canada, to learn how they do things in their clubs, and to see the value of our larger organization.