

2024
Sparkle ✨
Awards

PRESENTED BY THE DUFFERIN WOMEN IN BUSINESS

About Us

DWIB is a committee of the **Dufferin Board of Trade** (formerly, Greater Area Dufferin Chamber of Commerce) and offers opportunities on a monthly basis for women to “Build, Connect & Grow”. We understand the importance of networking and more importantly “connecting”. As women, it’s in our DNA to nurture relationships, understand the pressures and be supportive to each other. We have all heard the saying that people do business with people they know, like and trust, (and more importantly who they would refer), but remember – connecting is not about you, but who knows you!

The DWIB committee is a group of amazing volunteers who coordinate all aspects of the events through monthly meetings. To ensure women have the opportunity to attend, events are varied between luncheons and after 5’s. You don’t have to be a member of Dufferin Board of Trade to attend, however, we encourage you to understand the benefits the DBOT has to offer.

We encourage you to visit our events page at www.dwib.ca/events for a complete listing of up-coming events and details on how to register.

2024 Committee Members

Teena Avery, Elegant Professional Events – *Chair*

Sarah Sawchyn, FM 101 Orangeville

Nada St. Germain, GNLD, Neolife

Krupa Chothani, Shelburne Optometry

Tish Hansen, The Concerige

Miranda O’Connor, The Art of Storytelling

Jaemilyn Gavino, Dufferin Board of Trade

2023 Mentor of the Year

Meet our Nominees

Sheila Mullin – The Mullin Group is a team of realtors serving the Dufferin-Caledon area for the past 17 years. We believe in giving back to the community in which we live and work. I believe mentoring is invaluable. I believe we can give time, talent or treasury. Giving money can be easy for some, but giving of one's time and talent is priceless.

Radeena Montgomery – At RAM Media my passion is to help business build strong nurturing relationships with their clients/customers. Mentoring in our community is important because it is a powerful way to contribute to the growth and well-being of individuals and the community as a whole. Strong individuals contribute to strong communities.

Penny Leimbrook – I am a Nationally certified Boxing Coach and also an RYT200 yoga teacher. I work with a variety of different people in Dufferin County through either personal training or teaching classes. Seeing others fulfill their dreams and being encouraged along the way is so important. Being involved in a male dominated sport and empowering other women through boxing is a dream come true for me.

Margaret Janssen – JDC's company vision is "BUILDING EXCELLENCE WHILE PROVIDING THE ULTIMATE JOURNEY TO ENRICH OUR CLIENTS' LIVES". Being compassionate about others could be considered a weakness but I see it as something I can show leadership in and show how being compassionate for those around us can lead others into being better individuals as we're busy helping those around us who may not be as fortunate as we are. Compassion is a big part of building up others' confidence which will, in turn, help them use this trait as a positive influence in their own lives.

2023 Mentor of the Year

Meet our Nominees

Kimberly Van Ryn – Branching Out Support Services (BOSS) is a social enterprise that serves people with neurodiverities and their chosen families. Mentoring is highly regarded and practiced with in our business and in the community. Not only do we have a free community of practice to mentor professionals in our field we are constantly engaging and collaborating with other women owned businesses to create opportunities for us to all thrive.

2023 Networker of the Year

Meet our Nominees

Marci Lipman – I am involved in several different not for profits in Dufferin County. Building a strong, healthy community depends on many factors. It is important that not only I network, but that we help build ways for all of the community to network. Farmers markets are a place to socialize—where people can meet their friend and meet new people. The more that people interact with each other, the more they will take care of each other.

Molly Mullin – The Mullin Group is a full-service Real Estate Team from the Royal LePage RCR Orangeville Office that has been serving the Dufferin area for over 17 years. We are dedicated to making a positive impact on the community where we both reside and work. We actively contribute to numerous local charities, extending our support through financial contributions and volunteering our time for various community organizations. One of our main pillars is to give back and expand our connections to the amazing community that we work with. Networking and community involvement are two vital aspects that play a significant role in personal and professional growth in any community.

2023 Networker of the Year

Meet our Nominees

Martina Rowley – Martina Rowley And Company is a premium provider of virtual business services. We help small-business owners avoid or recover from burnout when they are scaling their business. We do that by organising, streamlining and taking care of day-to-day processes to make your business efficient and manageable, and handle day to day administrative needs, so the business owner can focus on their zone of genius and key deliverables.

2023 Volunteer of the Year

Meet our Nominees

Shirley Boxem – I'm the chair of the Grants Committee for DCF as well as a member of the Outreach committee. Volunteerism is part of what helps make people and communities whole and healthy and Dufferin is no different. We cannot afford to pay for all that needs to be done. That's not a bad thing necessarily, because the benefits of volunteering extend beyond the task itself. Volunteering connects people with issues that are meaningful to them and supports a sense of purpose; a feeling that they're doing something, anything, to address a need.

Carrie-Anne DeCaprio – Being able to work with multiple organizations allows me the opportunity to support each group more efficiently. These organizations are integral to the operation of our community and open dialogue between non-profits allows us to better serve the vulnerable in our community in a respectful and dignified way. Volunteering is a way to give back to our community that has given us so many things. All the events that are put on, programs that are organized and supports we access are driven by volunteers without whom none of the experience that we call 'community' would be possible.

2023 Volunteer of the Year

Meet our Nominees

Deanna Avison - I started Hearts Wide Open for Autism to honour my twin Grandchildren who were diagnosed with Autism when they were two. I organize the fundraiser every year by getting Sponsors, Silent auction donations, booking the Venue, Mystery group, and Music. Also, decorating of the venue and set up for the evening. All my time is volunteered because I love to give.

Navdeep Gill - We do a motorcycle ride called 'RIDE FOR RAJA' to raise money for Peel Children's aid Foundation. We have raised around \$500,000 and that money goes towards the youth ni foster care's university fees or after school programs. Volunteers also give their personal touch and people around them feel comfortable. They are there by choice because they want to help. They usually are very understanding.

Carola Little - Our family and friends create the Haunt In The Park at the Fiddlepark in Shelburne every October, benefitting the Shepherds Cupboard Food Bank. I do the advertising, media relations, costumes and makeups, as well as help with volunteer organization, sponsorships, layout and build. How many times do we hear people comment on what a lovely small town we have or what a great feel this community shares? That isn't a coincidence. Its by coming together as individuals, and working towards a common goal that creates that feeling. Volunteering is not just a way to give back to a community - it is a way to create one!

Jennifer Horne - Volunteering plays a significant role in shaping one's character and personality. Many people volunteer for various reasons, whether it be to help others, gain new skills, or simply give back to their community. For me, volunteering has always been an essential part of my life.

2023 Women of Influence

Meet our Nominees

Kelly McDowell – My primary community role is known as the Festival Director of the Dufferin Film Festival, a new arts and culture initiative coming August 2024. Additionally, I work with my partner, owner of Rose Digital Media Group (RDMG), a local professional video production company, who serve not only international, provincial and local clients, but work with non-profit organizations to assist in professionally promoting their cause.

Stacey Tarrant – Since 2019, my dedication has been centred on empowering women entrepreneurs to believe in their dreams by offering: brand strategy services and social media management for my client roster and capturing and utilizing storytelling brand photography to capture narratives and convert online audiences into customers – tying in my other business, Say it with Stacey Gifts, (on occasion) to include turn-key promotional branding solutions for my clients

Julie Thurgood-Burnett – My role goes beyond entrepreneurship; it extends to philanthropy, where I use my influence to bolster local causes and non-profits. By contributing time, resources, and funding, I support vital organizations, enabling them to continue their crucial work within our community. This commitment is not merely about charity; it's about strengthening the very fabric of our society, mainly supporting those in challenging circumstances.

Megan Gupta-Young – Shelburne Golf & Country Club has impacted our County in many ways, however, we are primarily be known for our influence in empowering junior golfers to be the very best they can be. We have had many of our students achieve provincial and international recognition for their achievements.

2023 Women of Influence

Meet our Nominees

Michelle Arsenault – Our business has been around since 1982. We are a staple restaurant in Dufferin County priding ourselves on creating amazing culinary experiences both for dine in and takeout while providing a hospitable atmosphere. As we continue to grow our brand with the introduction of The Nest boutique suites, we want to welcome travelers from all over to experience Dufferin County's finest attractions.

Stacey Roper – Headwaters Heating and Cooling is run together by owners Terry and Stacey Roper as a husband and wife team. Headwaters Heating and Cooling is a reputable HVAC company providing top notch heating and cooling solutions.

Ana Rupoli – Ana Rupoli Fitness is a personalized nutrition service catering specifically to mothers and families in Dufferin County. I understand the unique nutritional needs and time constraints faced by busy moms, and my mission is to simplify and enhance their wellness journey through customized meal plans.

Carol Szuky – Diamus Infrastructure Inc. helps residents of Dufferin County and beyond by repairing and upgrading infrastructure for the general community businesses, and home owners alike. Destination Booked provides virtual convenience to residents by supporting them in the research, planning, booking and in-destination support for travel or vacationing by themselves or with/for their loved ones until they return home.

Laura-Lee Laverty – Beyond its role as a grocery provider, M&M Food Market plays a vital part in enhancing the county's culinary landscape. The market's curated assortment of international flavors and specialty items introduces residents to a world of gastronomic possibilities, fostering a sense of culinary exploration and diversity.