



March 8 is

International Women's Day

Each year, across the world March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day. Many countries and organizations use this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate women's achievements and contributions they are making in local communities and right across the world.

Although there is much to be done in the area of equality, over the past century, women and women's rights have made great strides in both developed and developing countries. According to the Status of Canada website, many countries have included provisions in their constitutions guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination on the basis of sex. They also say that women are being alerted to their rights and educated on how to access those rights which is an improvement over what has happened in the past. In many places, violence against women is identified as a violation of women's rights and including gender perspectives has become an important part of regular programming.

This year, on March 8, take a few moments to think about the women in your life, and women all over the world. Use this day as an opportunity to pay tribute to your own accomplishments, or those of friends, family and other inspiring women.

Visit the Status of Women Canada website – visit http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/iwd/index_e.html.



Yarmouth Glen WI

Presentation of the Elgin County District Scholarship to Nicole Elizabeth Watson took place at the Dan Patterson Steamshow this past fall. Joan Mansell, Past President of Elgin District WI (on left) and Scholarship Convenor for the District, Joanne Erickson (on right) made the presentation. Nicole has shown outstanding progress and development, given excellent leadership and carries out club work of a high caliber in the 4-H Program. Nicole is presently in her first year at University of Guelph in the Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of General Science programs hoping to pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian.



St. George WI

Members of St. George WI (Brant District) prepare to serve another dinner meal to the local St. George Lion's Club. From left to right are Lynda Lyster, Mary Wratten, Marg Leppard, Sharon Valens, Shirely Johansen, Marie Lyons, Joyce Monkhouse, and Earla Goodbrand. The St. George, Blue Lake and Auburn (prior to disbanding) Women's Institutes have served the St. George Lions Club for over 63 years, ever since the Lions Club was chartered in 1945.

Good Idea!

- Create your own list of amazing women. They could include local women who have made an impact in your community, WI Branch Members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, of famous women who have inspired you.
- Brainstorm the characteristics you think the "Famous Five" possessed. Think of ways you can incorporate those attributes into your own life
- Imagine the Future. What are 10 things you think women will accomplish over the 25, 50, 100 years?
- Check out these great sites for more information:
 - o <http://www.heroines.ca/>
 - o http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/whm/index_e.html
 - o <http://womenshistory.about.com/>