



Gwen Kidd boards the bus near Carleton Place for Hamilton and Centennial Celebrations.

Dr. Roberta Bondar: Keynote Speaker at Women's Institute Centennial Celebration

Push Back Frontiers and Fulfill Your Goals



We live and work in an environment dominated by policies based on principles that have been defined mainly by a traditional male establishment. The emergence of women in the work force challenged not only pre-existing rules and thoughts, but also attitudes toward the role of women in society and the workplace. Although only a few years have passed since women were granted the right to be their own person and allowed to vote, we are not satisfied with either the pace of change in attitudes or the opportunities for women to be equals at decision-making levels.

Affirmative action created change early in the Shuttle program, but more women are needed. The selection of top-notch female applicants now is not difficult as more trained women have been afforded the opportunity to study and acquire skills needed for pre-astronaut training. The attitude issues, however, remain. The Space program in the United States is a microcosm of Western society, and must evolve to reflect the future. Whether on Earth or in space, we need to have a dream, goals and commitment in our work to achieve success.

Achieving a goal implies surmounting challenges and surpassing previous accomplishments. We test our abilities, growing creatively and technically as we overcome barriers. We could not attain our final goal without these intermediate steps. Space flight is an extreme case study in which physical stamina and technical expertise must be balanced by flexibility of thought, if the goal of being in space is to endure beyond the actual mission.

Commitment, passion, the opportunity to succeed, preparation and the support of others are common to the successful attainment of any goal. Fulfilment, however, is a key element in pursuing a dream. The combination of entrepreneurship and technical skills will drive the success of women in both business and science. We must open up attitudes and opportunities before we can push back frontiers and fulfill our goals.

Extracted from address given by Dr. Bondar at the Women's Institutes Centennial Celebration on Saturday, June 21, 1997.

The colours in the FWIO Tartan symbolize the following:

- White** - snow and clouds
- Gold** - golden grain that sustained Ontario families in early years
- Green** - beautiful verdure so evident throughout Ontario
- Red** - red fruits grown in southern areas
- Blue** - cornflowers and other cultivated and wild flowers
- Black** - the trail of the black walnut that led early settlers to Southern Ontario

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Tartan will be commercially woven and made available to members throughout Ontario. It is my hope that in 1997 members will proudly wear articles made from the new Tartan to Convention '97 celebrations commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institutes.

Nelda Morrison is the designer and weaver of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Tartan. She is currently a member of the South Macauley WI in the Muskoka South District.