

TAKING STEPS TOWARD GENDER EQUALITY

LOCAL MARCH HELPS MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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Margaret Teasdale marvels at the progress women have made in her lifetime.

"I was telling my son that it wasn't that long ago that a woman couldn't go to a bank and get a loan unless her husband went with her," she said.

But Teasdale was among about two dozen women, members of the Canadian Federation of University Women's Georgetown chapter, who marched along Guelph Street in Georgetown Tuesday — International Women's Day — as a reminder there is far more to be done to achieve equality.

"We know women are still not paid the same (as men)," said Teasdale. "You see it all the time (with actors) in the movies, but it's also the accountants, the lawyers."

The World Economic



Herb Garbutt / Metroland

Left and right: Members of the Georgetown chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women walk to bring awareness to the ongoing quest for gender equality.

Forum's Global Gender Gap report estimates women in North America won't achieve true equality until 2082, another 60 years. But Canada has slipped in terms of gender parity from a world ranking of 14th in 2006 to 24th in 2021.

Even in areas where gains have been made, problems still exist.

"You see a lot more

women in politics and leadership roles, but there's still bias," said Barb Baron before Tuesday's march. "Sometimes it's very subtle, remarks or suggestions, but then you see (former MP and environment minister) Catherine McKenna and she needed police protection."

Baron said similar problems exist as women con-

tinue to break into previously male-dominated professions such as trades.

"A (female) carpenter on a job site is still going to face discrimination," she said.

Both Baron and Teasdale acknowledge that women in Canada are "lucky" compared to women in other parts of the world where basic rights



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are denied.

"Our focus is on Canada, but we do advocate for women in places like Afghanistan as well," Teasdale said. "There is work to be done abroad as well."

The Gender Gap Report estimates it will take 135 years to achieve gender

equality globally. The pandemic has had a negative impact on gender equality, pushing that date back more than 35 years.

"I see these numbers and I think about my two daughters," said United Way of Halton and Hamilton president and CEO Brad Park. "Not only will they never see a world of gender equality, at the rate we are going, neither will their great-great-great grandchildren."

The United Way of Halton and Hamilton has invested in 30 programs aimed solely at helping women. It has also distributed more than 130,000 free menstrual products locally through its Period Promise program.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The nomination period for Cheers for Volunteers Award is now open.

Volunteer Halton of Community Development Halton (CDH) will present

awards to volunteers of non-profit, charitable, voluntary and grassroots organizations in Halton Region, giving local organizations an opportunity to recognize

volunteers who make important contributions. Organizations do not need to be a member of CDH to submit a nomination.

A total of 12 awards will

be presented, three each in Halton Hills, Milton, Burlington and Oakville.

Nominations can be made online at <https://bit.ly/3hHKK9r> until 4 p.m.

on Mar. 31.

Recipients will receive their awards during CDH's National Volunteer Week community celebrations, April 25 to 29.

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