



International Women's Day

A Day for Woman

International Women's Day started as a movement for change. In 1909, the very first march took place through the streets of New York City with 15,000 women participating. They were demanding change, choice and equality. After 103 years, on March 8, men and women still march.

The reasons for marching, however, have changed a little since then. The day is used to raise awareness for women who are still fighting for certain rights, and to celebrate the rights that have been won. It is used to celebrate the fact that women now have the right to make their own choices.

This International Women's Day we would like to share and celebrate the diversity of women, and the diversity of their choices by showcasing just a few of the women of Belleville.



Photos from top, left to right.

Ivy Doreen Maracle is a volunteer at the Elder's Lodge on the Tyendinaga reserve in Mohawk Territory. Maracle has been living at the lodge for the last 12 years after the death of her husband. Helping people and painting is how she spends most of her time. Photo by Melissa DiNardo

Allison Rutter and her five-month-old son, Arthur, visit the Ontario Early Years Centre for the first time on Feb 21, 2012. Raising Arthur on her own, Rutter says that it can be hard not having that second helping hand around when she needs it. Photo by Stephanie James

Katsitsiase, whose western name is Betty J. Maracle, stands in the hub at Loyalist College in front of a mural next to the aboriginal resources centre where she has worked for 16 years. Photo by Sarah Schofield

Tracey Julie Kennedy, 38, performs a cleansing ritual on her client, Amanda Arends, 30. Kennedy is a practising shaman in Belleville who has been trained by the laika of Peru. Photo by Rémy Legé-Jovian

Alison Gerrior, 18, hopes to be accepted at the University of Nipissing where she will be working to obtain a bachelor of arts in criminal justice and legal studies. Photo by Marina Sanford

Sarah Taylor practises spelling with her four-year-old son Cory while her daycare children sit near by. Taylor is a stay-at-home mother for her two children and also offers affordable daycare for other families. Photo by Michelle Cochrane

Barbara Lenk is 92 years of age and is a strong volunteer in the Belleville community. Lenk is a volunteer for the Belleville General Hospital as well as the Belleville Public Library. Photo by Samantha Cantelo

Bev Boyce, 75, is likely one of Canada's oldest lifeguards. Working at the YMCA in Belleville also as a swimming instructor, she says she gains the most enjoyment in teaching others how to swim. Photo by Rachel Pstutka

Charo Amon left her child in the Philippines to work as a nanny in Canada. Once her immigrant status has been confirmed, her next step is to bring her son to Canada and finally be reunited with him. Photo by Melchizedek Maquiso

Kasia Nitschke moved to Canada from Poland about four years ago. She is the mother of Hailey, 2, and Jayden, 1, and is currently about 21 weeks pregnant. Photo by Kristen Haveman

Carla de Wal poses with daughters and granddaughters on her farm. From top right, Amanda Kirby and her daughter Bethany, top left, Tanya Indewey and her daughter Chloe, bottom Carla de Wal and her youngest daughter Lori. Photo by Linda Horn

