



International Women's Day event to celebrate Guelph women in business

Proceeds to help create annual bursary for local women entrepreneurs

January 21 (Guelph, ON) – In recognition of International Women's Day, several local women's advocacy groups and business advisory organizations have partnered for an evening event called ***Ignite. Empower. Innovate.*** – ***Inspiring Women to Succeed in Business.***

The event is scheduled for **Thursday, March 6 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Cutten Fields** to celebrate the individual and collective strength women entrepreneurs bring to their families, community, and country, as well as the impact that women can have locally and globally to make a meaningful difference.

All **proceeds from the event will assist in the establishment of the annual Ignite Award**, a bursary which will advance the entrepreneurial power of women in Guelph and Wellington County beginning in 2015.

"Guelph and Wellington County have a diverse, active and incredibly collaborative network of women business leaders, women entrepreneurs, and women-owned businesses," says Kristel Manes, director of Innovation Guelph, an event partner. "This event honours the local community we've built, and the creation of the Ignite Award will help to ensure up-and-coming women entrepreneurs in our community have the opportunity to thrive."

Keynote speaker [Barbara Stegemann](#) – an award-winning entrepreneur, best-selling author and creator of 7 Virtues fragrance line – will share her inspiring story and successful social business model, which supports trade with nations experiencing war or strife. Stegemann received the Women Innovator's Award 2011 from the US State Department for the Economy of Canada, and is one of few women in Canada to be made Honorary Colonel for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Attendees will also enjoy a **musical performance by [Sharlene Wallace](#)**, one of Canada's most prolific and influential Celtic harpists.

Individual tickets are \$65, and include a complimentary glass of wine and appetizers throughout the event. Organizations and groups are invited to sponsor a table of 8 for \$500. **Tickets and complete event details are available online at guelphwomen.eventbrite.ca.**

###

About Partners for International Women's Day

Partners for International Women's Day is a collective of women business leaders, organizations and advocacy groups from Guelph and Wellington County. The collective includes representation from Canadian Federation of University Women – Guelph, Company of Women, Giant Goat Web Development, Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre, Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis, Guelph Women in Networking, Innovation Guelph, The O'Halloran Group, and Zonta Club of Guelph. This event is made possible through funding received from The Ministry of Economic Development, Trade & Employment.

Media Contact

Heather Watterworth
Marketing & Communications Specialist, Innovation Guelph
heather.watterworth@innovationguelph.ca
(519) 265-4495 ext. 107

