

Everything's Coming Up Roses as Zonta Celebrates International Women's Day

By Tina Powell, Marketing and Communications, Zonta Club of Oakville

Photo Courtesy of Andrea Marchant, As It Happens Photography

March 8 is not only International Women's Day, it's also Zonta Rose Day. That's why leading up to and including March 8 you'll see yellow roses in downtown restaurants and shops, in our Towne Square, in your social media feeds, and maybe even in your mailbox. "A single yellow rose has been a symbol of Zonta International since the early 1980s," says event co-chair Kathy Mundy. "Yellow roses are often associated with friendship and caring, which is perfect because that truly is what Zonta is all about."

Zonta International, established in 1919, envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman can achieve her full potential. The Oakville Chapter is a compassionate and dedicated group of women who volunteer their time to advance the status of women locally and internationally through advocacy and service. They help their local charitable partners provide emergency housing, financial aid, educational support, and mental and physical health services to women in need. The Club also provides scholarships and academic awards to local young women and birthing kits to women in developing nations.

The Zonta Club of Oakville has been celebrating International Women's Day since the Club's inception in 1973. The ZONTA CELEBRATES Dinner Gala at the Burlington Convention Centre is their signature event which sells out every year. In 2019, they welcomed keynote speaker Canadian Olympian Catriona Le May Doan, and in 2020, technology leader Amber Mac. Through these two events, the Club was able to donate \$75,000 to Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

To the Zonta Club of Oakville, International Women's Day marks a moment in time to recognize and honour women making a difference in our community. Since hosting a gala is not possible this year, the Zonta Club of Oakville would like to help you celebrate all the Zonta Roses in your life – namely, any woman who makes your world wonderful. It could be your mom, your sister, your daughter, your grandmother, your boss, your best friend, your neighbour, your teacher, your doctor, your coach, anyone.

Here's how:

1. Post a photo, message or video on social media about your #ZontaRose.
2. Send your Zonta Rose one of Zonta's International Women's Day "I CELEBRATE YOU" cards available at zontacelebrates.ca. One package of five cards is \$30 and purchasers will receive a \$25 tax receipt.
3. Treat your Zonta Rose to a special gift or meal from a local Oakville business. Look for Zonta's We Celebrate International Women's Day posters in shop windows around town. "We're thrilled that so many members of the Oakville BIA are celebrating and honouring women in this way," says event co-chair Liz Hibberd. "Oakville residents can show their love in return and take advantage of the special savings and deals being offered."

Lastly, all residents are encouraged to visit the Instagrammable Display in the Towne Square (94 George St.) from March 5 to 8 and follow Zonta Oakville on social media. More information can be found at zontacelebrates.ca or zontaoakville.org.



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