

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW: 2003 WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS**  
**HAMILTON, ON**  
**April 28, 2004**

The Hamilton Status of Women Committee invites the public to honour 15 outstanding nominees at the 2003 Women of the Year Awards happening May 20.

This year's nominees are:

- Laura Babcock
- Betty Bechtez
- Valerie Copping
- Marlene Gibson
- Myra James
- Melanie McFarlane
- Lyla Miklos
- Darlyne Mills
- Mary Pocius
- Lori Raudnask
- Joanne Ruggieri
- Hillary Smith
- Kim Thompson
- Elizabeth Weaver
- Veronica Weeks

Special guest will be the Honourable Jean Augustine MP.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Hamilton Convention Centre May 20. Tickets are \$40 per person and may be ordered by calling (905) 546-2424 ext. 1120.

A silent auction in support of the YWCA Hamilton Come Together Campaign will also be held as part of this year's event. Auction proceeds will support women and their families in our community. For more information on this segment of the event, contact 905.522.9922 or visit [www.ywcahamilton.org](http://www.ywcahamilton.org).

This is the 28th annual Women of the Year Awards that recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions in furthering the position of Hamilton-area women. The Status of Women Committee, which is organizing the event, will recognize nine of the nominees in the following areas:

- Women in the Arts: Outstanding achievements and/or significant contribution to the development of the arts in the community, so as to enrich and broaden the life of the community.
- Women in Public Affairs: Noteworthy service through direct political or governmental involvement at any level, or involvement with boards, commissions or public institutions.
- Women in Health or Sports and Fitness: Notable contribution to the physical and mental or social well-being of community members through health sciences, scientific research, sports or other related fields.
- Women in the Workplace: Outstanding achievement in business, the professions or labour.
- Women in Communications: Outstanding achievement within the broadest sense of communications systems: i.e. media, education or public forums.
- Women in Community Service: Outstanding achievement and/or significant contribution to the well-being of the community: through voluntary service.
- Women in Politics: Outstanding service and/or achievement of women in elected office: Municipal, Federal or Provincial, past or present.
- Youth Leadership Award Outstanding achievement as a youth ambassador to enrich and broaden the life of the community (ages 15 to 19).
- Women who Mentor: Exemplary leadership by example. A role model, who has encouraged, nurtured and supported women.

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