

2003 Hamilton Women of The Year Awards Acceptance Speech

Date: May 20th, 2004 Category: Women in Communications

I would like to thank several people for making this great honour possible.

First – My nominator Jae Adams, Chair of Hamilton Pride this year. Thanks Jae.

Second – All my friends who came tonight to share in this special event.

Third – Mark, Khaleel, Willard, Bernie, Kathy, Brian, Ken, Harry, Lynda, Paul, Barry and Victoria for all of their wonderful letters in support of my nomination.

Fourth – The Hamilton Status of Women Committee for organizing this event and for selecting me for this honour.

Fifth – An extra special thanks goes out to City of Hamilton staff who were very accommodating, gracious and patient with a certain nominee who doesn't truly comprehend the meaning of the phrase "please RSVP by this date".

Also – A heartfelt thank you to all the women before me, who boldly went where no woman has gone before, and enabled my journey to be impeded with a few less roadblocks than theirs, but not to worry, they also made sure to leave me a couple of obstacles, so I too could make the path more accessible for those who would come after me.

I'd like to share a quote with you from one of my favourite science fiction television series – Babylon 5.

There's a scene in one episode where Delenn, a wise alien woman from a species called the Minbari, looks over the bustling concourse of Babylon 5, a Space Station, with a look of awe and she says, to the station's human Commander, John Sheridan:

"No one else would've ever built a place like this. Humans share one unique quality. They build communities. If the Narns of the Centauri or any other race built a station like this, it would only be used by their own people, but everywhere humans go, they create communities out of diverse and sometimes hostile populations. It is a great gift and a terrible responsibility, one that can not be abandoned."

Communities, by my definition, are families.

For I feel the word family is a far broader and richer word when I include all the friends, teachers, colleagues, co-workers, collaborators, mentors, heroes & heroines, activists, volunteers, neighbours, allies and soul mates who have shaped, defines and influenced who I am today.

To my very large and very extended family – Thank you. Thank you very very much.