

WOMEN WHO ROCK

October is Women's History Month



WOMEN WHO ROCK

Celebrating Women's History Month



Evelyn Myrie,
Founder, Women Who Rock Awards

As we celebrate 2021 Women's History Month here in Canada, Empower Strategy Group is pleased to host its sixth staging of Women Who Rock Awards, which recognizes the contributions of women whose work has had a meaningful impact on our community.

The global effect of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to influence person-to-person interaction, so, once again, like last year, we are forced to stage the awards using the virtual platform. Nonetheless, we assure you that our interactive celebration will be filled with the kind of events that you will enjoy from the comfort of your home.

We are pleased to have on this occasion Dr. Dori Tonstle as our keynote speaker, vocalist Heather Valley as our entertainer and Linda as the MC.

We extend our appreciation to this year's sponsors including McMaster University, YWCA, Ethical Associates and Deborah Barfnect Law Office.

You are invited now to sit back, relax as we celebrate the contributions of these wonderful women whom we have chosen to honor this evening.

Sincerely

Evelyn Myrie

Founder, Women Who Rock Awards.



Andrea Horwath



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THE OFFICE OF
**MAYOR FRED
EISENBERGER**
CITY OF HAMILTON



October 24, 2021

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Hamilton Centre and the Leader of the Official Opposition, I am pleased to congratulate and celebrate this year's Women Who Rock. Today's virtual celebration is a fantastic opportunity to meet some incredible women doing incredible work in our community.

It is important we celebrate the contributions all women and girls have made throughout history. With October being the official Women's History Month in Canada, there is no shortage of trailblazing women throughout our history, as well as those working hard to make a difference in our communities today. The women selected as this year's Women Who Rock are doing just that.

To this year's guest speaker, Jean Augustine, you continue to inspire and impact young women across this country, looking to enter politics. We are all fortunate to have you with us to celebrate these exceptional women.

Thank you to the organizers, supporters and all the volunteers who have worked so hard to put on another successful Women Who Rock event. Congratulations once again to these trail blazing, awe-inspiring Women Who Rock.

Warm Regards,

Andrea Horwath, MPP

6th Women Who Rock Awards

October 24, 2021

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the City of Hamilton and my Council Colleagues, to welcome everyone in attendance for the 6th Women Who Rock Awards.

These awards recognize the contributions and achievements of trailblazing women and girls in Hamilton. It has never been more important to recognize and acknowledge the remarkable impact of women and girls in their communities and significant achievements in their professional careers.

Investing in the power of women and providing recognition, validation, opportunities and encouragement to continue to advance themselves and support the advancement of other women will have lasting impacts across our city now and into the future.

Thank you to Evelyn Myrie, organizers and volunteers for your time and effort. This event would not be possible without your tireless commitment.

Congratulations to the recipients and best wishes to all for an enjoyable evening.

Yours Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor



Women Who Rock Awards 2021

Event Host: Linda Rourke

AGENDA:

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome: Evelyn Myrie, Founder

Greetings

Guest Speaker: The Honourable Jean Augustine

Performance by Heather Valley

Recognition of all Nominees

Awards Presentation

Closing Remarks and Thank You

Linda Rourke

Television Producer and Host



Jean Augustine

Teacher, Politician, and Social Reformer



Heather Valley

Lawyer, Musician, and Speaker



Women Who Rock Awards Nominees

Tara Muldoon
Zobia Jawed
Faith Ogunkoya
Melanie Sodka
Tania Hernandez
Erin Dunham
Lohifa Pogoson Acker
Terri Johns
Sarah Ernest
Sandy Biback
Janice Cardinale
Lisa Julien
Maddie Brockbank
Shilpa Tiwari
Kal Brach
Grace Dagues

Tracey Taylor-O'Reilly
Ekua Cudjoe
Jacky Sheppard
Nicole Miller
Gabriela Covaci
Samantha Ridley
Gennile Thomas
Michèle Newton
Nadia Ishmail
Khadija Hamidu
Donna Cardoza
Colleen James
Heidi Tillmans
Suzanne Archie
Anne Woods
Treena MacSween





Heather Valley

Lawyer, Musician, and Speaker

Heather Valley is a musician, lawyer and speaker based in Hamilton, Ontario. She left a successful family law practice to pursue music following an abusive relationship with an American con man. She tells her own story of heartbreak and, ultimately, empowerment, through her autobiographical lyrics.

Her debut album, *Desert Message* (2019), received international critical acclaim, including being named Best Album of 2019 by altcountry.nl. This November she plays the TakeRoot Festival in the Netherlands and tours Europe.

"She has a natural gift for performing, a formidable singing voice and as a songwriter and lyricist the potential to become a world class artist." - Ron Saint Germain (producer for Jimi Hendrix, Aretha Franklin...)

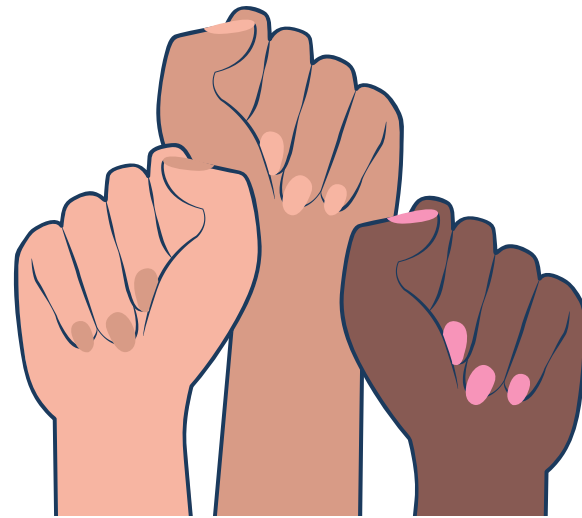
#1 Album & Song of 2019 - Hugo Vogel, altcountry.nl

"It's music to drink to." - If It's Too Loud

"Desert Message has some of Molina's moody tension and emotional depth, although with the exception of the crashing, insistent Ohio River, the tone is lighter and gentler. Valley's thoughtful alto and somber songs recall Sharon Van Etten, Angel Olsen, and Cat Power, but Valley and Brenner's guitars root Desert Message explicitly in Americana..."

- Steve Klinge, Philadelphia Inquirer

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees of Women Who Rock!



Matthew Green

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
HAMILTON CENTRE

matthewgreen.ndp.ca

Congratulations to
NOMINEES &
RECIPIENTS
WOMEN WHO ROCK

CONGRATULATIONS



TO ALL NOMINEES
& RECIPIENTS
OF THE 2021
WOMEN WHO ROCK
AWARDS



NRINDER NANN
CITY COUNCILLOR | WARD 3

THE
JUICE
KITCHEN
560 CONCESSION, HAMILTON



Linda Rourke

Television Producer and Host

Linda Rourke has had a varied media career since which has taken her across the country. She has worked in media sales as well as hosting and producing shows at The Weather Network in Montreal and Ontario, Vancouver Breakfast (CTV), Canada AM, Hamilton Life and City Matters at Cable 14 in Hamilton.

Proud to Celebrate Women's History Month and ALL the Women Who Rock!



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6TH ANNIVERSARY



WOMEN WHO ROCK

It has never been more important to recognize and acknowledge the impact of women in the City of Hamilton. **Women Who Rock** is celebrating its 6th year of recognizing the contributions of women and girls from our past, present and future.

Congratulations to all nominees and award recipients of the **Women Who Rock Awards**. Thank you for your endless work, dedication to innovation and creative solutions and investment in community building. You are changing the way the world works and for that we are thankful. I look forward to the continuing impact across our city now and into the future. As we celebrate Women's History Month in October, it is important to commit to a better day and invest in a better tomorrow.

Thank you to Evelyn Myrie and her team for continuing to organize this recognition event and celebration year after year.

Congratulations once again to all the nominees and award recipients,

THE OFFICE OF
MAYOR FRED
EISENBERGER





Jean Augustine

Teacher, Politician, and Social Reformer

In 1993, Canadian politician Jean Augustine became the first Black woman elected to the Parliament of Canada. An energetic advocate of social justice, she worked as the principal of an elementary school before entering federal politics. Among her accomplishments as an MP was the introduction of a motion, passed unanimously, to have February proclaimed as Black History Month in Canada. The city of Toronto had been celebrating Black History Month, working with organizations such as the Ontario Black History Society, since 1979.

Born in St. George's, Grenada, Jean Augustine was a qualified teacher when she arrived in Canada in 1959, but had to work as a domestic and shoe clerk before earning an Ontario Teacher's Certificate. After completing a Master of Education degree, Ms. Augustine became a school principal and supported many social causes through her involvement in boards such as that of The Hospital for Sick Children. She also served as the National President of the Congress of Black Women of Canada. She holds an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Toronto.

During her years as a federal member of parliament, The Honourable Jean Augustine served as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister of Canada, Chair of the National Liberal Women's Caucus, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Deputy Speaker. In March 2007 she became the first Fairness Commissioner for the province of Ontario. The mother of two daughters, Jean Augustine is the recipient of numerous awards—including the 1994 Canadian Black Achievement Award, the YWCA Woman of Distinction and the Kaye Livingstone Award for support of issues relating to Black women. Ms. Augustine has worked on many initiatives related to youth, noting that "racism is the most significant barrier to the successful integration of newcomer black youths to Canada."

The Jean Augustine Scholarship Fund, established in honour of Ms. Augustine, provides help to single mothers studying at George Brown College in Toronto.

www.heroines.ca



Artisan Market

(located inside the Hamilton Farmers Market)



*Congrats to all Nominees
and
Recipients of the
Women
Who Rock
Awards*



*Congratulations to all
Women Who Rock Award Winners*



2022
WOMEN of
DISTINCTION
Awards

Shinning a light on the women and girls
who build **Hamilton and Halton.**

NOMINATE TODAY!



ywcahamilton.org

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to the following individuals who have helped in making this another fabulous celebration:

Debonairs Events
Unicorn Rebellion

Audrey Wobbenhorst
Renee Wetsalaar

Rosanna Ciulla
Kim Martin

Thank you to our sponsors:



Councillor Nrinder Nann

**Law Office of Deborah
Barfknecht**



Make anti-racism your new business as usual.

EMPOWER Strategy Group supports organizations in their diversity efforts, so a culture of inclusion can thrive.

Building a more diverse and inclusive work culture begins here.

Empowering organizations to be the change.

We'll take a look at your policies through an equitable lens, so that anti-racism becomes your new "this is how we've always done it."

Community-shifting conversations powered by values and respect

Creating a culture of inclusion starts with understanding key aspects of diversity. We'll get real about your organization's barriers to inclusion and devise a plan for removing them.

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & ABR Training
- Diversity Assessments
- Organizational Change
- Community Capacity Building
- Keynote

www.empowerstrategygroup.com