
Media Release

Join the London Heritage Council and London Public Library on Saturday, February 17 at Central Library for the 6th Annual London Heritage Fair, focused on “Celebrating Women in London.”

What: 2018 Heritage Fair: Celebrating Women in London

Where: Central Library, 251 Dundas Street, London, ON

When: Saturday, February 17, 2018 9:00am – 3:00pm

In the era of #ImWithHer, #MeToo, and #TimesUp, it’s more important than ever to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing women who have and continue to contribute so much to our community. London is a city built on the significant contributions of many women. Women such as Victoria Grace Blackburn, journalist and managing editor of the London Free Press in 1918, Jane Bigelow, the first female mayor of the City of London, Ontario in 1972, Carol Johnston who founded the London Children’s Museum in 1982, and Leslee White-Eye, who became the first woman to serve as Chief of the Chippewas on the Thames First Nation – all of whom have shaped London’s rich heritage and their work continues to impact Londoners today.

The 2018 Heritage Fair will include prominent speakers, including Leslee White-Eye and James Stewart Reaney, and interactive activities such as a pottery making, a film screening of the 1958 National Film Board film “Women on the March,” henna tattooing, and an indigenous drumming circle. In addition, the Fair will host an informative Exploration Zone with over 25 local heritage and cultural organizations, all showcasing women in our community.

This year’s fair is a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. Following decades of struggle, women’s suffrage resulted in a portion of women being granted the right to vote in federal elections in 1918, though women of Asian descent and Indigenous women were excluded for several more decades (1948 and 1960, respectively). In addition to voting rights, suffrage also fought for improvements to education, healthcare and employment as well as an end to violence against women and children.

Featured Heritage Fair speaker Saidat, a children’s entertainer, speaker, author, singer, will speak share how she has learned to face the criticisms and judgements sometimes placed on her as a woman. “It is vital that women, as a community, continue to share their challenges and triumph with one another in order to lift one another up. By encouraging one another we strengthen our community and make it easier for others to believe in themselves and find their passion in the world. A world that sometimes tries to take that dream away through discrimination and discouragement.”

Learn more about the program at <https://www.londonheritage.ca/heritagefair> or for more information, please contact Dhira Ghosh, Events Coordinator and Interim Manager, London Heritage Council at dghosh@london.ca or (519) 930-2140 or Carolyn Doyle, Adult Services Coordinator, London Public Library at carolyn.doyle@lpl.london.on.ca or (519) 661-5100 x 5137.