

# 'Z' spells success in Brampton-Caledon

By RICK DRENNAN

To children of an earlier era, the letter Z came to represent Zorro, the flamboyant righter of wrongs, the fictional California nobleman named Don Diego de la Vega.

With his signature swoosh, the Z was a warning to all the wrongdoers in society that justice would be done.

You could say the same thing about The Zonta Club of Brampton/Caledon.

Their Z has come to symbolize all the good that can be done in society – especially how the worldwide organization works as an advocate for women and children.

The Zonta Club's 2012 Women of Achievement Awards will honour those women that have made exemplary contributions, by either inspiring, being trailblazers, and/or improving the lives of women and girls in their communities.

"The Women of Achievement Awards is a way to celebrate women who have made a difference," says event chair, Shirley Hall of the Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon. "The awards are a wonderful opportunity to honour women of the Brampton and Caledon communities who, by their own initiative, dedication, perseverance and pioneering spirit, are role models for other women."

The Awards will recognize the leadership displayed by women in a number of fields of interest, and the following nominees will be whittled down to three recipients (with only one allowed in any category), and one winner from the Young Women of Achievement category.

The gala is being held at The Pearson Convention Center on November 15th.

The following are this year's nominees:

#### The Arts and Entertainment (or Performance)

Catherine Astolfo  
Lynda Lemmon

#### Business/Professions & Trades

Marilyn Fields  
Meagan Carder

#### Community Service

Bhupinder Sanghera  
Carole Berry  
Sheri Lynn Ladonchuk  
Susan Montgomery  
Urz Heer  
Valerie Arnold-Judge  
Virginia Tambllyn  
Kathy Bell

#### Education, Training, Development

Mary Nanavati  
Joanne Freer  
Martha Jansenbergers  
Elaine Flett

#### Sports, Wellness and Healthy Living

Nancy Forbes

#### Young Women of Achievement

Rabia Idrees  
Stephanie Noronha

These 20 nominees' applications have been sent to an independent selection committee.

The theme of this year's event is 'teens at risk.'

All proceeds will be donated to Our Place Peel and Rappport Youth and Family Counselling of Peel and other Zonta projects.

Tickets are \$90/person, and of course, men are welcomed too.

In fact, Bill Chapman (Minuteman Press), Terry McIntyre (advisor, TD Waterhouse, director at Brampton Board of Trade) and Doug Munro (president, Maritime-Ontario freight lines, and former Business Person of the Year) have all been sponsors of the event, and have helped make the evening such a resounding success.

The impressive list of past winners includes Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell, Ruth Sharpe, Beryl Ford, Joanne Robinson, and Dixie Chard.

Chard, who sits on the organizing committee, has been thrilled how the awards night has grown over the years, and this serial entrepreneur who started her first business at age 21 (beauty spa in Caledon), is proud of the fact she has never worked for anyone but herself.

It's this true business spirit that drives the Awards, and Chard, a long-time Brampton

resident who moved to Georgetown in 2008, thinks the sterling list of past winners is something all business people in Brampton-Caledon should be proud of.

That list also includes Maria Britto, the long-time Brampton realtor and community activist who now heads up the local LHIN in our area. The new chief of Peel Regional Police, Jennifer Evans, is also a former winner.

Britto won in the community service side, and Evans was a winner for her work in Business Professions & Trade. Cassie Campbell, a member of Canada's winning women's Olympic hockey team, is also a past winner.

Whatever category, the winners all share one thing: a commitment to giving back to their community, says Chard, who has been doing it most of her life.

Even a cancer scare a few years back hasn't slowed her determination to make sure the Awards night is one of the best networking events of the year.

"That's the real payoff of being involved with this event, the people you meet," she says. "We have had wonderful support from our community, and our sponsors."

Chard is also a former director with the Brampton Board of Trade.

The awards began way back in 1984 when it was a joint venture with the YWCA, and it was then called the Women of Distinction Awards.

When the Y dropped out, Zonta continued to work with its members to organize an event to celebrate the inspired achievements of women throughout Brampton and Caledon.

If you want to purchase a ticket, here's the contact information:

In Brampton, call Marion McGill at 905-275-1446 X 301 or email: mmcgill@viceroys.com

In Caledon, call Lynda Noll at 905-838-0823 or email: lyndanoll@gmail.ca

For more information contact Elayne McDermid at 905-457-1229.

**Top:** Palki Bhatt - 2011 Young Woman of Achievement Award winner, with Elayne McDermid at last year's event.

**Left:** McDermid, WOA committee member, Nancy Hall winner, 2011 WOA in Health, Science and Technology, and Shirley Hall, chair of WOA Committee. This year's event is being held Nov. 15th at Pearson Convention Center in Brampton and will see 20 nominees in six categories looking to win awards. Tickets are \$90 each and both women and men are welcome to attend the annual event.

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