

# Zonta Club celebrating International Women's Day with fundraiser

BY CHARLOTTE PRONG  
PARKHILL  
Chronicle Staff

**T**hey're not ladies who lunch. They're women who get things done.

The Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, while the international women's club has been around for 90 years.

Zonta K-W is holding its annual International Women's Day fundraising dinner next Wednesday, and, as it is each year, the event is sold out.

"It's as many as the Walper can hold, and it's like that every year," said club member Anne Patterson.

The business women's club donates the proceeds each year to an international project dedicated to improving the lives of women. In the past, they've provided clean water in Sri Lanka and helped to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda.

Globe and Mail journalist Sonia Verma is the keynote speaker at this year's event. She'll be sharing her experiences of what life is really like for women in Afghanistan today. Verma has visited the country eight times since 2001.

Patterson, a certified financial planner here in Waterloo, has been a Zonta member for 15 years and is proud of the club's dedication to women, both at home and internationally.

The list of service grants Zonta has handed out to women's organizations in the region is long: Anselma House, Mary's Place, the Eating Disorders Awareness

Coalition, the Family Violence Project, Focus for Ethnic Women and the YWCA Next Door Program, just to name a few.

They also provide scholarships for young women in high school who have donated an exceptional amount of time and energy to volunteer work.

It's a way to reward their commitment, while giving

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day (March 8) celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of this event, first celebrated in Europe in 1911.

them a boost up the ladder.

"It's a natural transition," Patterson said. "When you listen to what these girls do, and they're only 18, 19 years old, it's amazing to listen to what each of them does."

They also provide cash for school, research or travel to a young woman who is entering an unusual field of work.

In addition, each year they honour several women over the age of 55 for their volunteer work.

The K-W Zonta club also hosts the Betty Thompson Golf Classic in the spring, which regularly raises in excess of \$50,000 in one day, for a total of almost \$700,000.

"That money goes directly to support women's health issues, not research, right here in town," Patterson said.

They've purchased mammogram equipment for Grand River Hospital, supported the cardiac diagnostic program at St. Mary's, and refurbished the wig boutique for HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre.

International Women's Day events in Waterloo Region

### 4th Annual Open Closet

All women in Waterloo Region are invited to shop from a selection of gently used, FREE clothing. Hosted by the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region.

Monday, March 8  
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Trinity United Church  
74 Frederick St.,  
Kitchener

*\*Please drop off donations of gently used women's clothing at Trinity United Church on Sunday, March 7, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.*

### Movie Screening - Offside

Movie screening and guest speaker Alice Kuzniar from the University of Waterloo

Monday, March 8th  
6:45 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Princess Twin Cinema,  
46 King St. N., Waterloo  
Tickets: \$15 per person,  
\$20 includes popcorn and pop

Proceeds go to Planned Parenthood Waterloo Region's women's health program for newcomers

Contact PPWR at 519-743-9360 for tickets.