



DIVA News

The DIVA Foundation

Healthy Women... Healthy World

DIVA Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

The DIVA Foundation was founded in 1997 following the release of a groundbreaking *Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development* (OECD) report. The report indicated that the health of Canadian and American women was declining at an earlier age, while all other OECD countries were showing marked improvements in the good health life expectancy of women over the previous 10-15 years. The report stated, "although both men and women can

expect to live longer on average, about five years longer than they did twenty years ago, the number of years that Canadians can expect to live in good health had actually declined by 2.3 years for women and 0.4 years for men between 1978 and 1991". The authors noted, "Canadian women are experiencing more poor health than the case even several years ago!" This report was so distressing to a group of women from across Canada that they created a not-for-

profit, charitable organization to increase and foster the good health of women. Through its own efforts and the efforts of organizations that participate in charitable campaigns, educational initiatives, ongoing research, and other supportive ventures the DIVA Foundation is making a difference in the lives of women. The name "DIVA" was chosen because the founding members believed that a diva, "a woman of rare and outstanding talent," lies within every woman.

Fall, 2007

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Special Events:

May 29th, 2008—
DIVA Award Gala at
the National Arts
Centre

The DIVA Vision, Goals, and Mission

The Foundation's vision is to be an organization known as a strong educator in credible, leading edge information and one that supports advances and rewards excellence in women's health

and well-being. Its mission is to be a national organization that is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women through the promotion of educational programs as well as re-

warding exceptional individuals and organizations that have shown excellence in the advancement of the quality of life of Canadian Women.

DIVA Foundation

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DIVA in Action

DIVA has delivered seven annual, educational “Speakers’ Series” focusing on the prevention of illness and disease, healthy lifestyle choices, and evidence-based, alternatives to conventional treatment for diseases affecting women. The presentations, in lecture format, have been delivered at a cost that assures availability to both women and men of all socio-economic backgrounds.

Supporting Canadian Women

DIVA has showcased and supported numerous women’s health organizations including:

- S. E. Greenberg Women’s Health Centre (over \$10,000 in the last eight years)
- The Ottawa Hospital
- Harmony House
- Ottawa Police Force Spousal Abuse Investigation Unit
- The Canadian Cancer Society
- The Osteoporosis Society
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Ovarian Cancer Canada

Sponsors Make the Difference

The work of the DIVA Foundation has been sponsored by donors and corporate sponsors who believe that healthy women lead to a healthy world. DIVA remains indebted to: Ray & Berndtson, Scotia Bank, The Ottawa Citizen, Industrial Media,

DIVA Board 2007



Left to Right: Brenda Robertson, Dr. Elaine Jolly (Honorary), Sylvie Lauzon, Grace Betts, Nancy Averill, Darlene Wilson. Allyne Thomson

The inaugural DIVA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women’s Health and Well-Being

As a Foundation, DIVA brings in money to give it away. It is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women through promoting leading-edge educational programs as well as rewarding ex-

ceptional individuals who have shown excellence in the advancement of the quality of life of women. To this end, in May 2008 the Foundation will present its first DIVA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women’s Health and Well-Being at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa (see page 3 for more information).

Thanks to our Sponsors!

Rogers Television, Capital Parent, Forever Young, Adlerian Centre for Counselling and Education, and Glebe Apothecary for their outstanding support during its first decade in operation.

DIVA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Health and Well-Being

The DIVA Foundation recognizes Maureen McTeer with the inaugural *DIVA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Health and Well-Being*. The award will be presented at a Gala event at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa, on Thursday 29th May, 2008.

Maureen McTeer recognized with inaugural award

The DIVA Foundation, founded in 1997, is a national not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to advancing, rewarding, and celebrating achievements that improve the health and well-being of women.

The *DIVA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Health and Well-Being* was established in order to acknowledge individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to furthering women's good health and well-being. This award is the highest expression of recognition and celebration for exceptional achievements in this area.

"Maureen McTeer's ongoing and determined efforts in promoting women's health and equality make her a deserving recipient of this award," said Grace Betts, Chair and President of the DIVA Foundation. "She is a scholar, author, lecturer, lawyer, activist, spouse, mother, and

volunteer, who has dedicated her life to improving women's access to healthcare and equal rights."

A graduate of the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Common Law, where she is now an adjunct professor of medical law, Ms. McTeer became the first Canadian to earn a Masters degree in biotechnological law and ethics at the University of Sheffield in the UK, in 2004. She will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from that university in July, 2008 for her work in the fields of law and bioethics. The author of four books, including her bestselling autobiography, *In My Own Name* (Random House), Ms. McTeer writes and lectures extensively on issues of women's health and those involving law, science, and public policy, including matters of reproductive and genetic technologies.

National Arts Centre Gala May 29th, 2008

Ms. McTeer is the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Shirley E. Greenberg Women's Health Centre at the Riverside Hospital in Ottawa and was a Founding Board Member of the Ottawa Women's Health Council. She is the National Patron of Osteoporosis Canada and a member of the International Women Leaders' Panel on that dis-



ease. She is currently the lay member on the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists National Council and on their Foundation for Women's Health. She is a Member of the Clinical Ethics Committee at the Ottawa Heart Institute, McMaster University's Sex/Gender and Cardiovascular Disease Research Advisory Board, and PEN Canada.

It is with great pride that the DIVA Foundation Board of Directors names Maureen McTeer as the inaugural recipient of the *DIVA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Health and Well-Being*.

Information on ticket sales for this premier Gala event will be posted on the DIVA Foundation website (www.divafoundation.org). For further information please contact Grace V. Betts, Chair and President, 613 564-DIVA [3482], president@divafoundation.com

The DIVA Foundation

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Best Betts

A MESSAGE FROM GRACE BETTS,
CHAIR AND PRESIDENT



In September 2007, The DIVA Foundation welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors: Mme. Monique Boudrias, Executive Vice-President, Public Service Agency of Canada, and Emma J. Stodel, Ph.D., Founder of *Learning 4 Excellence*. The exceptional academic, management, and professional skills of Mme. Boudrias and Dr. Stodel will contribute significantly to the work of the Foundation.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere admiration and respect for the Directors of the Board and all the volunteers who have worked with DIVA over the past 10 years for the tireless and professional manner in which they conduct themselves in carrying out DIVA related business.

Happy Birthday DIVA!
