

# Herstory of International Women's Day

Every year throughout the world women celebrate International Women's Day on or around March 8th. Steeped in a history of women's struggles for equality, it has come to symbolize women's efforts to shape a better world.

The origins of the day can be traced back to the early twentieth century when women in both North America and Europe were fighting for better working conditions, demanding the right to vote, and as the First World War escalated, calling for peace.

A strike of female garment workers in New York on March 8, 1857 and a second strike fifty years later by similar workers still labouring under poor working conditions in New York are often attributed as the events which gave rise to the observance of International Women's Day. Although it appears that these particular dates do not actually mark the beginning of strikes, they do reflect a period of significant labour unrest. The early twentieth century witnessed numerous strikes involving up to thousands of

women in major centres such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Montreal.

On March 8, 1908, women's suffrage was discussed at a meeting of the New York City Social Democratic Women's Society. A year later on February 23, 1909, two thousand people in New York attended the first National Woman's Day. The event, sponsored by the American Socialists focused on women's rights and suffrage. By 1911, the day was also celebrated in Europe. Louise Zietz and Clara Zetkin, two German women, had suggested at the International Socialist Women's Meeting in 1910, the designation of a day as International Women's Day.

The day was observed on various dates in both February and March throughout Europe and Russia as well as the United States in the following years. At an International Women's Day march in Switzerland in 1915, women focused their commitments on peace.

After a period of years in which the observance of the day was

limited to countries such as Spain and China, International Women's Day was revived and revitalized in the late 1960's in North America. In 1977 a United Nations resolution was passed calling for countries to celebrate a day for women's rights and international peace. March 8th was not specifically designated in the resolution, but it has become the day observed in many countries. In New Brunswick International Women's Day has been observed by many women's groups and hundreds of women over the past number of years.

Although the origins of International Women's Day seem to be drawn from more than one event, the essence of the day has remained clear to women over the decades. As the need continues for a day to reflect on our progress and to consider future action, it is likely that International Women's Day will be celebrated for many years to come.



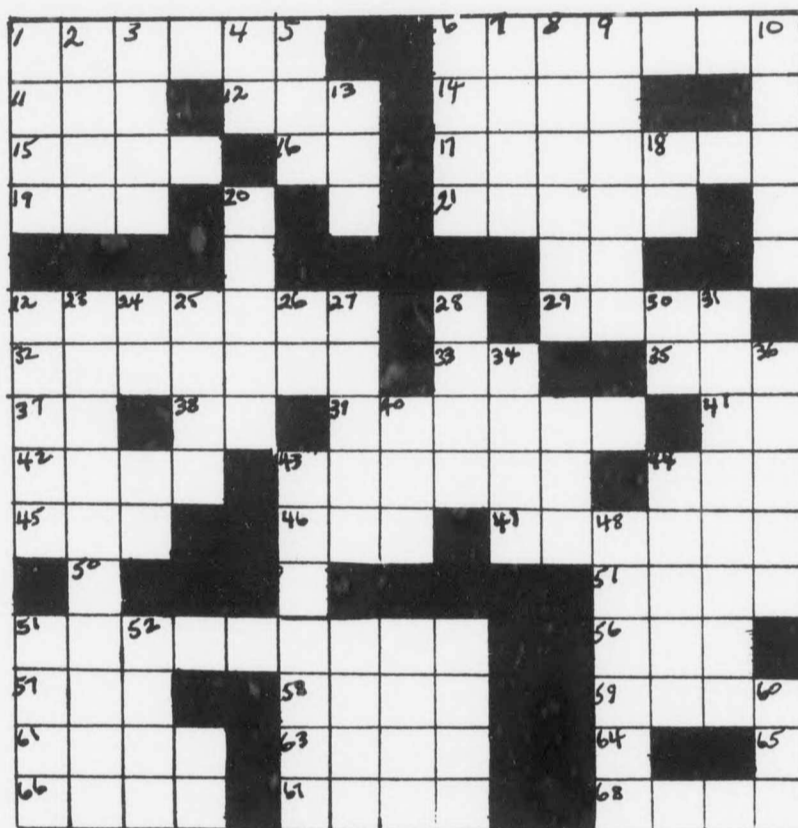
Across

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Marlatt. Canadian poet who visited UNB in January 1992. Also, in Greek mythology, was changed into a laurel tree to escape the attentions of Apollo.
6. Mary M. \_\_\_\_\_. First black woman to graduate from UNB.
11. "\_\_\_\_\_ Maria."
12. \_\_\_\_\_ woman. A female servant in any of the armed forces. (Source: Collins Dictionary.)
14. North American Native Peoples
15. Diana \_\_\_\_\_ & the Supremes.
16. "Ours is not to reason why, Ours is but \_\_\_\_\_ type and die."
17. Poetic name for Circe & Diana.
19. Abbreviation for knit.
21. Hindu goddess of the dawn.
22. McCall's woman of the year, 1946. Last name (actress).
29. A form or means of control. (To keep a tight \_\_\_\_\_.)
32. Not the second oldest, but the \_\_\_\_\_ (letters and number)
33. What Margaret Thatcher may have said when told that Great Britain was not ready for a female Prime Minister.
35. What they call you if you climb mountains (or trees) and excel in mathematics. \_\_\_\_\_ boy.
37. Said to be the most "meaningful" word in the English language.
38. Chemical symbol for holmium
39. Free of charge.
41. What I call myself.
42. An old "pick-up" line: "What's your \_\_\_\_\_?"
43. First female leader of an Islamic country. (last name)
44. Past tense of light.
45. Explosive stuff.
46. Abbreviation for attention.
47. To show kindness or sympathy towards. (SPCA for example)

50. Common question asked on campus: "What \_\_\_\_\_ are you in?" Often preceded by "What's your faculty?"
51. Sparked the US civil rights movement by refusing to give up her seat on a bus. (full name)
56. Abbreviation for "Sailing vessel in trouble."
57. Prefix: equal or identical (Difficult to have a "\_\_\_\_\_tope" without it).
58. Poetic form of "neath".
59. Young children can keep you on these.
61. Used in illuminating signs.
63. Magical word: "\_\_\_\_\_ cadabra."
64. "As a woman \_\_\_\_\_ have not country . . . As a woman my country is the whole world." Virginia Woolf.
65. No \_\_\_\_\_ turns!
66. Prefix: relating to wimmie.
67. "I meant to do my work today, But a bluebird \_\_\_\_\_ in the apple tree."
68. "She's only a bird in a gilded \_\_\_\_\_."

Down

1. "Sometimes I think we are still living in the \_\_\_\_\_ ages."
2. What's blue and goes ding-dong? A frozen \_\_\_\_\_ representative.
3. Something or someone that bugs you.
4. Abbreviation for "the picture province."
5. Besides conversing, studying and sleeping, one can also \_\_\_\_\_, in the SUB cafeteria.
6. Wimmie's group founded in Own Sound, Ontario in 1874 to stop the liquor trade.
7. Goddess of the rainbow.
8. Below, beneath or underground.
9. "The creatures of the \_\_\_\_\_ our ancestors and our future." (two words)
10. We do this to our brains during exams.
13. Saying: \_\_\_\_\_ the mark.
18. Rita MacNeils home province.



20. Song lyric or Valentine message. "I love \_\_\_\_\_". (two words)
22. \_\_\_\_\_ with one's own petard.
23. Small, delicate and charming.
24. Abbreviation for "Paid."
25. Playwright, wit and spy Aphra\_\_\_\_\_ (1640-1687)
26. Abbreviation for "right"
27. "Take Back the \_\_\_\_\_"
28. This, \_\_\_\_\_, these and those.
30. The player whose turn it is to try and tag another.
31. To propose as a candidate.
34. "See you \_\_\_\_\_ the next UNB Student Wimmie's Committee Meeting."
36. A unit of length equal to 1.094 yards (US

- spelling)
  40. When traveling along life's highway be careful not to fall into one of these.
  43. "Yes, we have no \_\_\_\_\_."
  44. On or towards the left.
  48. One who achieves a mystical experience.
  49. Colloquial for "flower"
  51. Bathtub adornment
  52. In a little while.
  53. Singer. \_\_\_\_\_ MacIntyre.
  54. Part of a character on a piece of printer's type that projects beyond the body.
  54. Abbreviation for "Sensitive New Age Guy."
  60. Nickname for Susan.
  62. What "No" means.
- Created by Pat Post

## Access to Abortion

Continued from page three

Court of Canada.

In New Brunswick, abortions are covered by Medicare if approved by two doctors and performed by a gynecologist at an accredited hospital. However, the province is divided into regions. Women must have an abortion in the region in which they live.

### Solutions to crossword puzzle

GYNO SANG CAGE  
NEON ABRA I U  
IOEEN TOES  
ROSAPARKS SVT  
P N E YEAR  
NTP AFT HUMANE  
SIGN BHUTTO LIT  
IF HO GRATES ME  
OIDESTI HA TOM  
HEBBURN T REIN  
ER K  
KNT Y E USHAS C  
ROSS TO TITANVA  
AVE BAF CREE R  
DAPHNE WIMSLLOW

Four hospitals perform abortions. They're located in the central and southern part of the province. That means women in Northern New Brunswick have no legal access to abortions. Dr. Morgentaler has announced he will be setting up a clinic in New Brunswick, but no opening date has been announced. The New Brunswick government has also vowed to fight the clinic.

Also, as M. discovered, there is no access anywhere in the Atlantic provinces for women in her situation because of tight restrictions on the cut off period for performing abortions. In New Brunswick, abortions are only available up to 12 weeks.

"I was so desperate I was prepared to induce a miscarriage then the hospital would have to take me," she said. "And I would have if my women friends hadn't pulled together and found out where I could get help."

The help M. found was from the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL). Kit Holmwood of Saint John, New Brunswick, is the national president of CARAL. She hears stories like M.'s all the time.

"To truly have access to an abortion in New Brunswick, you have to know that you are pregnant within four to six weeks," Holmwood said. "Anything after six weeks doesn't give a woman enough time to make it through the hoops the government has set up...and that's assuming she can make a decision immediately."

Both M and Holmwood agree there are a lot of

stereotypes about women who want abortions. "I don't think any woman wants an abortion," said M. "But the reality is that society leaves us with no choice."

Holmwood agrees, "The governments has left women with no choices, especially here in New Brunswick. The McKenna government won't put money into sex education, into making birth control readily available, it won't increase welfare rates or provide daycare and it has recently cut off funding to teen mothers who want to stay in school. And then Frank McKenna turns around and says he will fight any abortion clinic in this province."

"You can't say 'No' all the way down the line," she said. Holmwood cited studies done in Ontario that show every dollar the provinces spends on sex education saves \$10 in costs down the line. "Since the Ontario government has invested in sex education over the last decade, the teenage pregnancy rate has decreased 25% and the teen abortion rate is down by 26 percent."

Holmwood said even though there may be access to abortions on paper, the reality of the situation is often very different. Women who do have access to a clinic still have to pay a fee of up to \$400. The costs of traveling to a clinic for women outside Halifax can make abortion inaccessible.

M. said it cost her \$800 plus traveling expenses to go to Montreal for her abortion. Without the financial support of many women, she couldn't

have afforded it. Many New Brunswick women also cross the border into Maine where abortions range in price from \$200 to \$400 U.S.

Holmwood is concerned about the number of women she meets that are given misinformation or lied to by doctors and people working in reproductive health clinics.

"Women are being told that abortions are illegal and to forget it. Women are also being told they are farther along than they really are, so they no longer qualify for a legal abortion. And women are not being told that they can get abortions in other provinces," Holmwood said. M. knows from first-hand experience how hard it is to get information on abortions.

"I still get angry when I think of what I went through. The reproductive clinic said I was too far along to have an abortion and that was it. I find it very hard to believe that they did not know about organizations like CARAL that could help me and about availability of abortions in other provinces."

"Because of the delays and misinformation, my abortion literally ripped me apart emotionally and physically," she said.

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