

News



There's a woman at the beginning of all great things.

- Alphonse de Lamartine

While perusing local media it dawned on me how many amazing role models women have in our community. Women entrepreneurs, students or women looking for inspiration and mentorship need not look very far. Listed below are accomplished women who amaze, inspire and hit my "A" list.

Savvy Successful Entrepreneurs

Tracey Mick and Suzanne Gray, Discovery Wines; Tammy Moore, Madhouse Creative; Cassandra Tompkins, The Women's Place; Cynthia Gibson-Smith, Custom Granite; Myrna Park, Max-U Training; Kathleen Wallis, SkyTrac; Kate Davies, CEO Schumann Group (Big White); Dr. Anita Dosaj, CD Communications; Linda Edgecombe, humorist, author and public speaker; Karen Murphy, Express Gift Baskets; Sharon Black, RFind Technologies; Jane Hoffman, Coldwell Banker; Marlene Hehr, Deli City and Bunches Bistro; Lisa Cham, The FIXX Café & Pasta Bar; Renee Wasylyk, CEO, Troika Developments; Sheri Simson, Keen Fit; Tara Roden, CPGA, Urban Links; Rhonda Victoor, Incite Coaching; Lila Very,

manager, Eveline Charles Day Spa.

Unstoppable Professionals and Entrepreneurs

Alison Yesilcimen, president and CEO, Okanagan Valley Newspaper Group; Nicole Rustad, Club Penguin; Laura Thurnheer, Okanagan College Professor and past president, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Kyleen Myrah, Okanagan College; Dr. Jayne Brooks, Okanagan College; Dr. Heather Banham, Okanagan College; Sandra Broughton, regional administrator, Southern Interior Cancer Centre; Judge Jane Cartwright; Justice Alison Beams; Theresa Arsenault, senior partner, Pushor Mitchell Lawyers; Angela McLean-O'Heir, manager, Prospera Credit Union; Karen Christiansen, partner MNP Accountants; Cindy Roth, teacher and amazing athlete; Gretchen Komick, Interior Health Authority; Kara Putnam, QHR Technologies;

Shakers and Movers in Not-for-Profits

Lois Serwa; Cynthia Waldek-Peters, BC Cancer Foundation; Sharon Shepherd, mayor of Kelowna; Jane Fletcher; Laurel Douglas, CEO of Women's Enterprise Centre; Sarah Nelems, executive director of Kelowna Hospital Foundation; Wendy Falkowski, executive director of Child Development Centre; Bernice Demchuk, Kelowna SPCA.

This list is nowhere near complete, and my apologies for missing many other amazing women and tireless contributors.

Winning Women in the Okanagan

Kudosto Linda Aquilini and Reagan Gasparre of Monkey's Playhouse in Kelowna on winning first place in the growth category in the Canadian

Amazing women

Youth Foundations' Biz Plan contest. Monkey's Playhouse is a quality childcare facility for children aged 0-12 years that offers families flexibility in scheduling and individualized programs to assist children with learning challenges. It is located at 1575 Bernard.

As this goes to print, I was pleasantly surprised by being presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Athabasca University in Alberta. This prestigious award recognizes the accomplishments of AU graduates who have brought honour and prestige to the University (I completed my MBA, in 1998). Another Kelowna native, Sharon Barnes (CEO, RFind), was presented with the Athabasca University's Rising Star Award, which is awarded to alumni members who have demonstrated leadership and contributed significantly to their area of expertise early in their career, or to those who have made significant, upward career advancements. Sharon received her AU MBA in 2006.

Special congratulations to my friends Renee Wasylyk of Troika Developments and Jane Fletcher (now at Capri Insurance). Both are finalists for Kelowna's 2007 Sarah Donaldson Treadgold Woman of the Year - the civic awards dinner is being held on April 23/08 at the Grand. Tickets are available through the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce.

A Kelowna entrepreneur, Karen Luniw, has been ranked No. 1 for her podcast by the iTunes Health category in the U.S. The podcast is a spinoff of her website, www.thelawofattractioncenter.com, and is about "People finding the value in having a positive mental attitude to moving their business forward," says Luniw. It

is free to sign up on her website or download the podcast. However, those wanting one-on-one advice can contact Luniw, who does her counseling over the telephone. It's all about the Law of Attraction (like the Secret!).