
The Perth County Status of Women Action Committee (PCSWAC) is a group of women committed to the advancement of the position of women.

PCSWAC will organize, discuss and carry out action on specific issues coming from the myriad of concerns which are rooted in the very experience of how women live their lives both in city and rural communities of Perth County.

We work around specific issues to deepen the level of attitudinal and structural change. We have chosen the issue of Sexual Assault as our first major area of focus.

Meetings: First Tuesday of every month at the
Kiwanis Community Centre – 7:30 p.m.

For information call:

Linda Page – 273-2257; Kathy Monks-Leeson – 284-2108

Come Celebrate **Persons Day**

Wednesday, October 16th, 1985 at 7:30

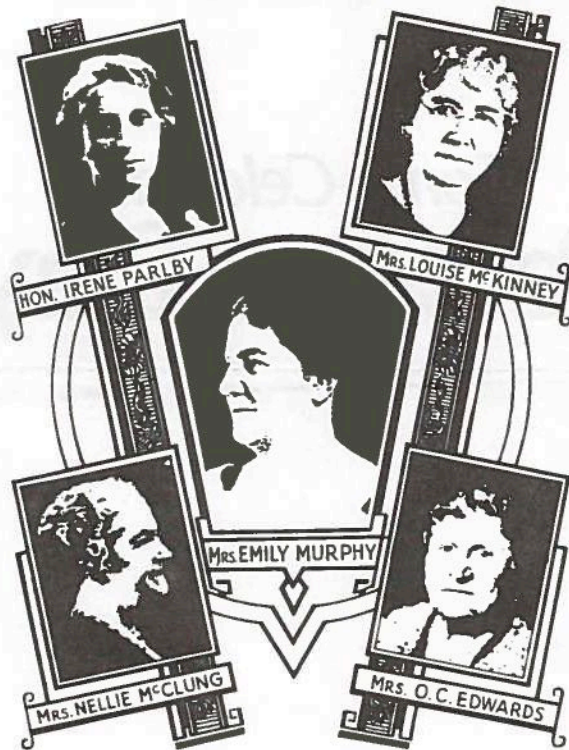
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
Stratford, Ontario

General Admission – \$3.00

WINE & CHEESE

Sponsored by:

The Perth County Status of Women Action Committee



The Five Alberta Women

1929 – We Are Persons At Last!

In 1916, Emily Murphy, who had become Canada's first woman magistrate, had her authority challenged by a lawyer on the grounds that women were not "persons" under the British North American Act.

In 1921, when the Montreal Women's Club asked Prime Minister Arthur Meighen to name Emily Murphy to the Senate, he refused on the grounds that women were not persons under the B.N.A. Act.

Knowing that any five interested persons could petition the government for an order in council directing the Supreme Court of Canada to make a ruling on a constitutional point in the B.N.A. Act, Emily Murphy gathered together the women who became known as the "Alberta Five" or the "Famous Five". They were Nellie McClung, famous as a suffragist and popular author; Irene Parlby, an Alberta Cabinet Minister; Henrietta Muir Edwards, an authority on laws affecting women and children; and Louise McKinley, Canada's first women M.L.A.

In April, 1928, after five weeks of deliberation, the Supreme Court of Canada declared that women were not persons. The *Famous Five* decided to take their case to the final Court of Appeal – The Privy Council in Britain. In October the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain announced the verdict.

"The word "person", in Section 24, includes members both of the male and the female sex. Women are eligible to be summoned to and become members of the Senate of Canada."

Canadian women became "Persons" on October 18th, 1929.



Maude Victoria Barlow
Consultant, Host, Public Affairs Television Programme

Biography

CAREER HISTORY

Senior Advisor on Women's Issues to former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.
Director, Office of Equal Opportunity for Women for the City of Ottawa.

Vice-President, Women Associates Consulting Inc., a management consulting firm specializing in the design and implementation of Affirmative Action programmes.

Worked with all levels of government, educational institutions, police academies, broadcasting and private industry, while with this firm.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Founder and Past President, Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography.

Founding member, Women for Justice – worked with women in prison.
Board of Directors, Media Watch Canada.

Chairperson, Ottawa Task Force on Wife Assault.

Past Presidents, Amethyst Women's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Centre.

Lectures extensively to conferences and workshops, and is a frequent media guest.

Listed in 1985 – *Who's Who of Canadian Women, Canadian Who's Who.*