

Keynote Speaker & Visionary Trailblazer

Rosemary Ganley is a journalist, author, teacher, activist, community builder, ardent feminist, and recent recipient of the Order of Canada.

She has been writing a weekly column for The Examiner since 2018. Her 350 columns and counting are published in a series of books, Positive Communities (2018), Gleanings (2021) and her latest book Wellspring (2025).

Rosemary's long history of activism is well rooted in the communities she has called home, across Canada and around the world.

She and late husband John were high school teachers and aid workers through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). During the late 1970s and early 1980s, they and their three sons lived in Jamaica and Tanzania. Their experiences are captured in her book Jamaica Journal published in (2016). Her commitment to grassroots multi-cultural community development is further evident in the family's founding of the Jamaican Self-Help agency that raised funds and engaged nearly a thousand students and fifty teachers from the Peterborough area in cultural exchanges with Jamaica. The Jamaican Self-Help agency operated from 1980 to 2012.

Rosemary's drive to advance gender equality was recognized when she served as part of a delegation representing Canada at the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 (which she covered for The Examiner).

In 2018, she received a phone call from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asking her to serve on the G7 council on gender equality issues. That year, the G7 had convened a new council of women from around the world to advise leaders on how to advance gender equality in all areas of their work. Since then, Rosemary received the YMCA Peterborough Peace Medal in 2018, an honorary degree from Trent University in 2022, and was presented the Order of Canada in 2024.

Rosemary lives up to the Order of Canada Motto, "They desire a better country." BPW Bowmanville has born witness to her humble and generous spirit to this end, as she promoted and actively joined BPW Bowmanville members at the 2019 #Project EnRoute Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign, which would spark #ProjectMapleLeaf, an ongoing national Anti-Human Trafficking initiative.

This evening, Rosemary honours us by taking us on a reflective journey through time. Join us as we humbly express our appreciation and commend her legacy as a feminist, humanitarian and "Visionary Trailblazer".



Photo Courtesy of Robert Hood & Pegi Evers

Rosemary Ganley Keynote Speaker

"I'M GRATEFUL FOR THIS LONG LIFE," SHE SAID. "AND I LOVE THIS COUNTRY. I'VE SEEN IT FROM COAST TO COAST — AND THE NORTH. AND THIS IS THE GREATEST HONOUR THAT MY COUNTRY COULD GIVE ME."

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