

# Focus on Women in St. Catharines History.

Research by Elizabeth Finnie



## **Laura Ingersoll Secord, 1775-1868**

Walked 19 miles from Queenston to DeCew House to warn James Fitzgibbon of imminent American attack on Beaver Dams during the War of 1812.



## **Harriet Tubman, c. 1820-1913**

“Conductor” on the Underground Railroad. Led many enslaved persons to safety in St. Catharines in the 1850s. Lived on North St., attended Salem (B.M.E.) Church. In 2015 Harriet Tubman School was named after her.



## **M. Eugenie Hibbard,**

One of the earliest graduates of the Mack Training School for Nurses. Early leader in medical care: on hospital ship “Maine” during the Boer War, on the Panama Canal, and in Cuba.



**Catherine Welland Merritt, photo c. 1910.**

Granddaughter of William Hamilton Merritt, founder of several local patriotic societies. She loaned her home Oak Hill for use as a convalescent hospital for First World War veterans.



**Mary Malcolmson, photo c. 1910**

Registered the first Canadian Girl Guide Unit. (St. Catharines, 1910.)

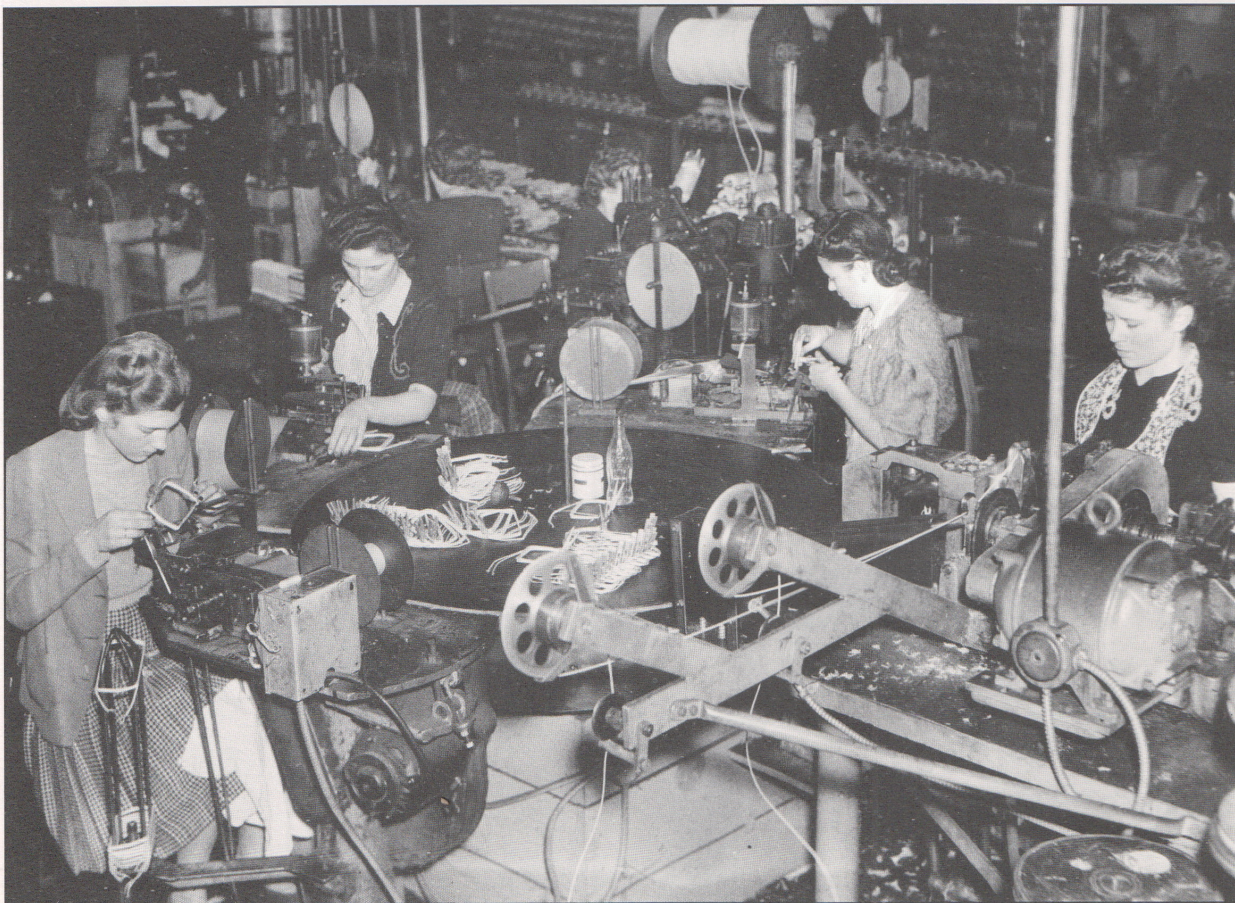




## Bessie Beyer, 1893-1990

Served as a nurse on the Western Front during First World War. Her diaries were published 100 years later in the book "They Called Her Canada".

a few days of the news of Italy's entry, Italian stores and in the immediate prewar years.



Women doing their part during the Second World War. Making munitions at McKinnon Industries, c. 1943.





**Sheila M. Wilson (in uniform c. 1944)**

Served in the WRNS during the Second World War. Librarian at the St. Catharines Public Library, co-authored “St. Catharines: Canada’s Canal City.”



Portrait of Laura Sabia  
Oil on canvas  
Image Courtesy of St. Catharines Museum

**Laura Sabia, 1916-1996**

Early local feminist, city councillor, instrumental in creating the Royal Commission for the Status of Women, 1967. (Prynce Nesbitt portrait).



**Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, 1935-2006**

Advocate for Metis rights. First aboriginal woman in Canada to own and operate a radio station. Recipient of Order of Ontario, Order of Canada and Honorary Doctorate from Brock University.



**Jeann Beattie. 1922 –2005**

Writer, intellectual, educator, sophisticate. Beattie wrote for Canadian Magazines and published four novels. She held educational and writing workshops at St. Catharines Public Library in her later years. Her writing materials were donated to the St. Catharines Museum.