**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**HURRICANE HAZEL STORMS INTO HAMILTON TO SHARE HER SUCCESS STORY**

**Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington hosts thought provoking speaker series with local leaders, The Honorable Hazel McCallion and internationally renowned artist Patricia Gagic**

HAMILTON-BURLINGTON, ONTARIO, March 31, 2016 – The inaugural *Leading Ladies Charitable Dinner and Speaker* Series, brought to you by the Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington, will take place on May 3, 2016 at LIUNA Station in Hamilton. Doors open at 5:30pm. Featuring the passionate stories of former Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion and Hamilton artist, author and philanthropist Patricia Gagic, the stage will be set for an engaging and inspiring evening. In addition to the exceptional speakers, the evening will be hosted by K-Lite FM’s Sunni Genesco and will include a spectacular dinner and exciting silent auction, with the proceeds supporting the charitable work of the Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington.

“Part of the Junior League’s mission is to develop the potential of women.” says Stephanie Fontaine, President of The Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington Inc. (JLHB). “We are thrilled to host the first annual *Leading Ladies Charitable Dinner and Speaker Series,* and to have the opportunity to learn from such inspirational women leaders in our community. We hope others will join us to hear the success stories of both Hazel and Patricia, and support the work of the Junior League in Hamilton and Burlington."

At 95, Hazel McCallion still outworks colleagues half her age. She is passionate about causes that benefit the community and is thrilled to support the Junior League. "My career has spanned many decades but I have consistently championed education and the development of women leaders, two priorities that I share with the Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington."

As one of WXN (Women’s Executive Network) Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada in 2015, Patricia Gagic’s talents have touched many aspects of the arts and beyond. She is also a dedicated community advocate both locally and internationally. "As a lifetime volunteer and advocate for children around the world, I am excited to share my story in hopes it will inspire others."

Tickets for the evening (including dinner and speakers) are $100 each (charitable donation receipt available for a portion of the ticket cost), and are available online at [www.juniorleague.ca](http://www.juniorleague.ca) or through the office at 289-337-9526 (Tuesday and Thursday).

The JLHB’s current focus of young women affected by poverty grounds their volunteer efforts and partnerships across the Hamilton-Burlington community. They are committed to helping these women by enhancing their life skills and improving their chances for educational success. More information about the JLHB is available online at www.juniorleague.ca.

For full speaker bios and more information, see [www.juniorleague.ca](http://www.juniorleague.ca)

*The Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington Inc. is an organization of women committed to voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.*

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