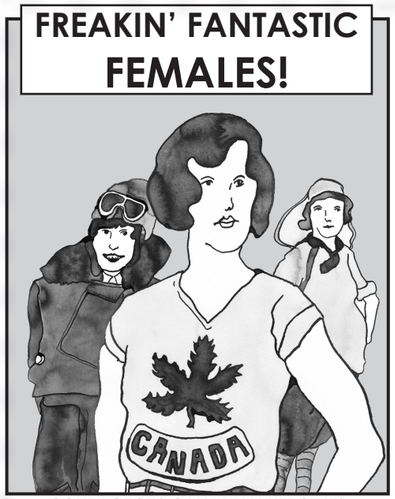

COURAGEOUS CANADIAN HEROINES

HELEN ARMSTRONG

EMILY PAULINE JOHNSON

ALEXANDRINE GIBB

FRANCES OLDHAM KELSEY

FERN BLODGETT

MARY AND CATHERINE BARCLAY

EMILY MURPHY

CARRIE DERICK

HILWIE HAMDON

EMILY CARR

JENNY TROUT

CATHERINE SCHUBERT

IDOLA SAINT JEAN

EMMA LAJEUNESSE ALBANI

JOAN BAMFORD FLETCHER

DOROTHEA MITCHELL

ESTHER HILL

FERN
BLODGETT
1918-1991

FERN was the first Canadian female wireless radio operator in wartime, serving with the merchant marine during World War II. Fern made 78 crossings of the Atlantic as her ships dodged torpedoes, minefields, and submarine and bomber attacks. She was seasick much of the time, but she stuck to her duties (with a bucket at her side). In 1942, King Haakon presented the Norwegian War Medal to Fern for her service.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 22

FRANCES OLDHAM
KELSEY
1914-2015

FRANCES earned a PhD in pharmacology and started working for the Food and Drug Administration. Her first assignment was to review a "harmless" drug called thalidomide. Despite pressure from the company, she refused to approve the drug and prevented thousands of babies being born with birth defects. John F. Kennedy presented her with the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 21

ALEXANDRINE
GIBB
1891-1958

ALEXANDRINE was an accomplished athlete who competed internationally, managed teams and was the most prominent female sports journalist in Canada during the 1920s and 1930s. She helped establish the Ontario Ladies Basketball Association and the Women's Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada. She also managed the Matchless Six, a group of women who won four medals at the 1928 Olympics.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 20

EMILY PAULINE
JOHNSON
1861-1913

EMILY was a First Nations poet and performer. Her unique presentations and oratory skills kept Emily active on the stage over two decades and helped her publish her poems and essays, and her short stories about First Nations culture and history, Canada and the wonders of the natural world. Pauline was a respected writer and legendary stage performer who was proud to raise awareness of First Nations culture.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 19

HELEN
ARMSTRONG
1875-1947

HELEN was a labour organizer who fought for social reform, higher wages and better working conditions. As president of the Women's Labour League in Winnipeg, she helped educate women about their rights. She endured public criticism, arrest and imprisonment as she stood up for her beliefs. She advocated for a living wage for women and saw Manitoba and B.C. pass minimum wage legislation for women in 1918.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 18

FREAKIN' FANTASTIC
FEMALES!

These trading cards were inspired by the stories of courageous Canadian women, as told by Merna Forster in her books *100 Canadian Heroines* and *100 More Canadian Heroines*. This is one sheet in a series of six sheets that can be printed on 11"x17" paper on a photocopier and then cut into trading cards to share with friends. Other sheets can be downloaded at www.estherparkerartist.com

For more information about these amazing women, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES

JENNY
TROUT
1841-1921

JENNY was the first Canadian woman licensed to practice medicine in Canada. She began her medical studies in the 1870s and endured hostile treatment in her classes to complete her degree. Dr. Trout encouraged other women to pursue medical careers and helped create Ontario's Women's Medical College. A model of courage and determination, she paved the way for women pursuing careers in medicine.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 28

EMILY
CARR
1871-1945

EMILY was a Canadian artist whose paintings were inspired by nature and the First Nations people of Canada's West Coast. As one of the first painters in Canada to adopt a Modernist and Post-Impressionist painting style, Carr did not receive widespread recognition for her work until late in her life. She was also a great Canadian writer, winning the Governor General's Gold Medal for her first book (Klee Wyck) in 1941.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 27

HILWIE
HAMDON
1905-1988

HILWIE led a group of Muslim women who were determined to build a place to pray in their adopted country, succeeding despite prejudice and the Great Depression. The Al Rashid Mosque opened its doors in Edmonton in 1938, becoming Canada's first mosque. The mosque was a focal point for Edmonton Muslims and Arabs of all faiths for decades, both as a community centre and as a place of worship.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 26

CARRIE
DERICK
1862-1941

CARRIE had the curious honour of being one of the few women to be listed in "American Men of Science" in 1910, acknowledging her as a distinguished scientist. She earned international recognition for her genetics research. Carrie was also a notable reformer, participating in the suffrage movement and playing an important role in a project to provide meals to working-class women.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 25

EMILY
MURPHY
1868-1933

EMILY, a self-taught legal expert, became the first woman magistrate in the British Empire. She led a ten-year fight to gain legal recognition of women as "persons". In October 1929, the Privy Council in England ruled that the term "person" included women and that they could serve in the Canadian Senate. This legal victory was just one of Emily's many achievements.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 24

MARY & CATHERINE
BARCLAY
1901-2000 & 1902-1985

MARY and CATHERINE, both Calgary schoolteachers, established the first youth hostels in North America in 1933 and led the development of hosteling in Canada. The first official hostel opened in Bragg Creek, Alberta and consisted of a tent, straw mattresses, a small stove and dishes. It provided city folks an inexpensive place to stay to enjoy the great outdoors.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 23

ESTHER
HILL
1895-1985

ESTHER was the first woman in Canada to receive a university degree in architecture. She struggled to develop her career in a male-dominated profession, including when the Alberta Association of Architects changed its requirements to make her ineligible to register with the organization. She was eventually registered and practiced in New York, Edmonton and Victoria. Despite her many skills, men often took credit for buildings that she designed.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 34

DOROTHEA
MITCHELL
1877-1976

DOROTHEA refused to accept that unmarried women weren't entitled to land grants. In 1910, after a year-long letter-writing campaign, she became the first woman to be granted a homestead in Ontario. Dorothea reinvented herself frequently, working as a hotel manager, teacher, stationmaster, accountant, realtor, and owner of an insurance company and sawmill. "Lady Lumberjack" was also a filmmaker and author.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 33

JOAN
BAMFORD
1918-1979

JOAN joined the First Aid Nursing Yoemanry, whose volunteers drove vehicles, operated hospitals and served as secret agents during World War II. After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, she commanded a force of Japanese soldiers through the jungles of Sumatra to safely evacuate nearly 2,000 women and children from a prison camp — fighting rebels, vehicle thieves and hostage takers along the way.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 32

EMMA LAJEUNESSE
ALBANI
1857-1939

EMMA was born in Quebec. She was the first Canadian singer to become an international celebrity. She made her operatic debut in 1870 at the age of 22 and performed throughout Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Ceylon. Emma was a favourite performer of Queen Victoria, who requested that Emma sing at her funeral.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 31

IDOLA
SAINT JEAN
1880-1945

IDOLA was an influential activist, journalist and teacher. She courageously withstood hostile personal attacks for decades as she fought to obtain legal rights for women to vote in Quebec, run in provincial elections, pursue their chosen professions and have legal rights within marriage. Idola contributed to many significant improvements in the status of women in Quebec and across Canada.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 30

CATHERINE
SCHUBERT
1835-1918

CATHERINE and her family left eastern Canada in search of Cariboo gold, climbing the Rocky Mountains and navigating dangerous rivers. After becoming the first European woman to enter B.C. by land, Catherine went into labour rafting down the Thompson River and delivered a baby girl. The Schuberts didn't strike it rich, but they raised their family on a farm that they bought in the Cariboo in 1881.

For more information about this amazing woman, visit Merna Forster's website at: http://www.heroines.ca/
Drawings by estherparkerartist.com

#FREAKINFANTASTICFEMALES CARD NO. 29