

**Myra Tulonen Smith**, *Women Arts 150 Canada*  
Discipline: Non-Fiction

It requires the “art of the storyteller” to hold a reader’s rapt attention when describing nonfiction real-life events and adventures. The captivating books written by and about the four remarkable women I am celebrating in *Women Arts 150 Canada* inspired me to experience their “quest” first-hand.

Joining the Eastern Ontario Natural-History Society, I donned a hard hat, steel-toed boots, safety glasses, protective gloves, safety vest and – like Geologist/Paleontologist, Dr Alice E Wilson – I went fossil hunting, stone hammer in hand! I collected samples of fossilized crinoids, worm tunnels, cephalopods, and corals. I came to see the direct connection to present-day descendants of those fossils in Dr Cathy Conlan’s (Marine Biologist) photographs of the myriad colourful creatures currently living in the ocean under the Antarctic ice. In searching through acres of rock in quarries and road outcrops I became intrigued with the visual evidence of rock formations through millennium and appreciated more directly the works of Volcanologist, Dr Catherine Hickson and Geologist/Paleontologist, Dr Alice E Wilson. By experiencing the intense physical effort of searching coupled with the excitement of the find, I came to appreciate more clearly the work of Archaeologist, Dr Patricia Sutherland. My questing led me to discover shapes I could distil into a sculptural form with which to honour these four women, in my work presented here. I am grateful for their inspiration!

Dr Alice E Wilson, Geologist, Paleontologist  
*The Earth Beneath Our Feet*

Dr Kathleen E Conlan, Marine Biologist  
*Under the Ice, A Marine Biologist at Work*

Dr Catherine Hickson, Volcanologist  
*Mt. St. Helens, Surviving the Stone Wind*

Dr Patricia Sutherland, Archaeologist  
*Upside Down, Arctic Realities*, six contributing authors  
*The Norse: An Arctic Mystery*, The Nature of Things documentary