1983-1984

Antigonish Women's Association

Women's Forum Formed

The recently formed Antigonish Women's Association (AWA) provides all women of Antigonish town and county with a forum through which their concerns may be centralized and their interests addressed. The AWA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that claims in its 50-person membership a comprehensive cross-section of the Antigonish female population — rural and urban, professional and non-professional, old and young. Its goal is to offer to women in the area the information and the instruments that facilitate understanding and treatment of the issues that face women today.

The organization lists its specific goals as: its publication and membership distribution of an Antigonish Women's Association Newsletter; the sponsorship of a Women's Resource Center; the introduction of programs dealing with specific areas of interest to women; and the promotion of increased understanding of women's issues among women and the general public in the form of advocacy and information exchange.

There are many areas of concern — both practical and ideological — that the Antigonish Women's Association hopes to address; some examples focus on educational needs such as legal instruction (wills, insurance, taxes, widow status, etc.), budgeting, investment opportunities, assertiveness training, avenues for continuing education, job application and resume writing skills; while women and health provides a whole range of topics to be discussed from diet and nutrition, physical fitness, coping with stress, drug and alcohol abuse to aging, child development, benefiting terms, caring for the sick at home, dealing with a disability, and first aid instruction; and recreational interests may encourage crafts, fitness, sports, planting and gardening and cooking.

The AWA will draw upon the professional people in the community, provincial and federal government resources, volunteer organizations and most importantly, according to organization spokesman, upon all the women of the area. The recently formed group emphasizes the fact that if the group, which seeks to provide support for all women, is to have a broad base and a popular appeal, women of all ages, needs, background and interests must become involved.

AWA treasurer Avon Burkholder asserts that the association serves as a kind of umbrella organization that encompasses, but does not duplicate, the services and objectives of other women's groups. Ms. Burkholder explains that the initiative for the formation of the AWA came from a group of interested women who discussed the problems that face women, recognized the need for a definite means of approaching these problems, and responded with an invitation to all women in the area to participate in the group organization.

The Antigonish Women's Association held its first public meeting in Mar. secured new membership and elected a board of directors. The Board includes president Grace MacKinnon; vice-president Mary Burns; secretary Janice Landry; treasurer Avon Burkholder; and directors Ellen Campbell, Madeline McGowan, Peggy Hinch, Carrie Gillies, Barbara MacDonald, Nancy Cullen, Phil Campbell, Mary Ludwell, Angela Miles and Marian MacLellan.

Now that the board has been elected and committees struck, the group will proceed throughout the summer with organizational work and policy and program considerations for the future. The Board's housing committee is currently searching for a centrally located building that can satisfy the specifications for a Women's Resource Center.

AWA membership is open to all women in Antigonish town and county. The next general meeting will be held Wednesday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education (across from the tourist Bureau).

Women's resource center opened

The newly organized Antigonish Women's Association has opened a Women's Resource Center at 222 Main Street, Antigonish, above Smith's Hardware, as a space where women can speak to other people and meet and where women can drop in for information on situations and problems that concern them.

Land[illegible] organize workshops, seminars, films, and classes on topics of interest to women, including legal issues such as wills, taxes, investment, and continuing education, and health topics such as living with arthritis, [illegible] and first aid.

If you have a program you would like the center to sponsor, call 863-4[illegible].

DEPUTY MAYOR EILEEN HENRY, second from right, cut the ribbon to officially open the Antigonish Women's Resource Center, located in the Smith's Hardware building on Main Street. Assisting with the formal ceremonies were Betty MacLean, left Antigonish Women's Association president Grace MacKinnon, and Center co-ordinator Oona Landry.

AWRC opens! First office located at 222 Main St., Suite 4

Women's Changing Lives (a day long seminar/workshop) held in October

First Meeting with the Board of Directors held on May 25, chaired by Mary Burns

1st Chairperson: Grace MacKinnon

AWRC/AWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 1983-1984

Avon Burkholder
Ellen Campbell
Nancy Cullen
Janice Landry
Grace MacKinnon
Madeline McGowan
Janet Tremblay
Mary Burns
Phil Campbell
Peggy Hinch
Barbara MacDonald
Vicky MacLean
Angela Miles

STAFF

Oona Landry
Betty MacLean

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The Antigonish Women's Association held its first public meeting in Mar. received new memberships and elected a board of directors. The Board includes president Grace MacKinnon; vice-president Mary Burns; secretary Janice Landry; treasurer Avon Burkholder. Other members of the board are Vicky MacLean, Madeline McGowan, Peggy Hinch, Carole Gillan, Barbara MacDonald, Nancy Cullen, Phil Campbell, Mary Ledwell, Angela Miles and Marian MacLellan.

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AWA membership is open to all women in Antigonish town and county. The next general meeting will be held Wednesday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Adult and Continuing Education (across from the tennis Bowes).

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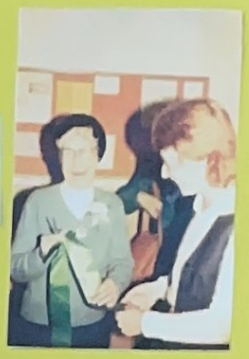

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