

AWA Begins

Summer 1984

Second Year

The Antigonish Women's Association is now into its second year and reports a most active and successful year since its inception in May of 1983.

The Association was formed when a group of interested women recognized the need to promote awareness and understanding of women's issues among women and the general public. Membership within the Association numbers approximately 150, made up of women of all ages, needs and interests.

The first major project of the Association was to establish the Antigonish Women's Resource Center which opened on December 12, 1983, at 222 Main Street. This was made possible through funding from Secretary of State Department, Women's Programs. Because of the resounding success of the Center and its future potential further funding was received last month when Allan J. MacEachen, Member of Parliament for the area, visited the Center and presented AWA president Vicki MacLean with a cheque for the current year, affirming government support for the work being done.

The Center, which is staffed by co-ordinator Oona Landry and office manager Betty MacLean, meets a very real need in the community. It provides the physical space and supportive environment for women to meet formally and informally to share and exchange information and ideas. It enables women to become involved in the various activities at the Center which include guest speakers, workshops and films on topics of special interest to women.

A file of community services and resources is open to

of brochures and pamphlets is free to visitors to the Center.

Through the Women's Resource Center, the AWA has developed a network of women throughout town and county. The popular AWA newsletter "AWARE" consists of news, information, calendar of events, book reviews, etc., and goes out to all members approximately ten times a year.

Proposed projects of the AWA include developing programs and activities that would specifically encourage the participation of senior citizens. Plans are being finalized for exploring cross-cultural contact with the Coady International Institute to co-ordinate information exchange between women from developing countries and local women. Exchange of information and referral with other groups and organizations pertaining to women's issues will continue to be of importance to the Association.

The AWA board of directors consists of Vicki MacLean, president; Avon Burkholder, vice-president and co-chairman; Janice Landry, secretary; Margaret Bowie, treasurer; Clementine Bijl, Phil Campbell, Joyce Daigle, Denise Donovan, Oona Landry, Barbara MacDonald, Mary Lou MacDonald, Madeline McGowan, Diane MacKinnon, Grace MacKinnon, Betty MacLean, Angela Miles, Pat Skinner and Janet Tremblay.

The Antigonish Women's Association, encouraged by its successes to date, looks forward to the continuation and expansion of the programs and services it can offer to the community.