

1986-1987

AWRC moved to location above Sears and Macintosh

Parenting Adolescents (six-series workshop)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8, 1986



WOMEN
are invited to come to the
CLAYMORE CONFERENCE ROOM
SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1986
AFTER 9 P.M.
for refreshments and social get-together

As an added feature to International Women's Day,
the Mulgrave Road Co-op Theatre Company is bringing back
"A Woman From the Sea"
University Auditorium, 8 p.m.

JOIN US FOR ONE OR BOTH EVENTS!

 **Antigonish Women's Association**

Open House Planned

The Friday, March 8, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre will have an open house in conjunction with International Women's Day activities planned for the same day.

Women from Antigonish are invited to celebrate the important day by coming together with other women at the Resource Centre for laughter and sharing. A WRC director, Star LeVatte (750-2000), will be present.

International Women's Day finds its origins in the early struggles of 1917 women from the garment and textile industry in New York against a demonstration protesting low wages, the 12-hour day, and "sweating" work conditions. These women began to

March of 1908, these women formed their own union. On March 8, 1909, thousands of women demonstrated for the same demands, plus equal pay and equal rights in work.

In 1915, the German labour leader Clara Zetkin, proposed that March 8, be proclaimed International Women's Day in memory of those early struggles. Today, Women's Day is an annual for addressing women in Canada and around the world come together to share and affirm women's values, talents and dreams.

"The staff of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre invite women to join with us in celebrating International Women's Day." Mrs. LeVatte, group facilitator.

AWRC To Sponsor Advocacy Workshops

On Wednesday, March 26, the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre will hold for the first time a series of five Advocacy Workshops. The purpose of these workshops is to share information and skills so that the participants will be better able to address the problems that people have with the legal system and agencies that affect their lives.

"Citizenship where women please" the Resource Centre for information at Antigonish, a spokeswoman for the Centre says. "They are in a vulnerable or victim position in their lives. By offering necessary information, the difficulties these women are facing become less daunting."

The themes of the five workshops have been selected after reviewing the most common areas of distress as expressed by the Centre's clients.

Each lecture will be given by a professional, trained and informed on the topic. The sessions will begin at 2:30 p.m. and will be held at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, 311 Main Street.

Following is a schedule of the Community Advocacy Workshops:

Monday, 26, "Citizenship Where Women Please"

Margaret Smith, Nova Scotia Legal Aid, Antigonish

April 1, "Consumer Concerns"

Carla Jones, Consumer Affairs, Antigonish

April 9, "Family Law"

Mary Chancy, Halifax Inquest

April 13, "Social Assistance"

Doreen MacLellan, Nova Scotia Legal Aid, Antigonish

April 22, "Community Advocacy"

Janet Crumwell, social worker, Family Services of Eastern Nova Scotia

The interested public is invited to attend one, several, or all of the lectures. For further information please call Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, 651-4222.

Brief prepared by Star LeVatte and Avon Burkholder for the local Advisory Council of the Canada Employment Insurance Commission (CEIC) on the training needs of women in the area



Campus Awareness Day - Women's Issues held at Bloomfield Centre (St. FX) on January 13 included a display and a two-hour lecture by Star LeVatte and Dorothy Gilson

Annual Coady Picnic held at Crystal Cliffs

Challenges to Women in Nova Scotia facilitated by Peggy Mahon



Women and the Christian Church facilitated by Dr. Joyce Kennedy

Talk on Pornography Draws Local Interest

by Debra Carle

The U.C.W. of St. James United Church and the Antigonish Women's Association co-sponsored a workshop on women's attitudes toward pornography this past Saturday afternoon in the United Church Hall. Star LeVatte, executive director of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, introduced the guest speaker, Althea MacLellan, a lecturer at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Ms. MacLellan, together with local women, conducted a study in the Halifax Diocese area on the topic of how women feel about pornography. Thirty-two women, ages 18 to 50, picked at random from the phone book took part. Ms. MacLellan and her associates chose several pictures from secular magazines found in stores to display on study and asked the subjects of the research to grade the pictures from "good" (pornography is not pornography) to "bad" (pornography is pornography).

Before answering the questionnaire, each subject gave her definition of pornography. The general response was that pornography is "dirty, vulgar, sexual exploitation and something done in public which should be done in private. As the conclusion of the research all the definitions of pornography had changed, not one subject included nudity as a factor, but all included violence, sexual exploitation, corruption and moral degradation, and distortion of the perfect female body such as found in "PLAYBOY" magazine.

After answering the questionnaire, each subject gave her definition of pornography as they saw it, and 71% knew about "PLAYBOY" magazine before the age of 14. Some 80% felt that pornography does have a negative effect on male-female relationships in that it puts pressure on women to do things that they do not want to do. One hundred percent of the subjects felt that pornography distorts perception of sexual relationships and is not healthy for young children.

The study showed that women dislike pornography in general, and the pornography includes violence, submission and hard-core pornography, such as found in "PLAYBOY", has a negative effect on how women see themselves, and how men see women. All subjects found that pornography has a negative effect on children's attitudes toward women sexually.

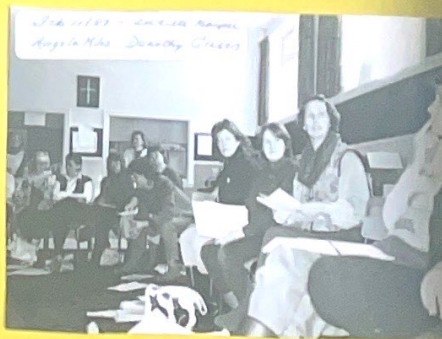
According to Ms. MacLellan, the main concern is the social impact of pornography. She said that research has shown that pornography made possible a greater acceptance of rape, an increased acceptance of violence toward women and so increased negative male attitudes toward women and that "aggressive violent pornography promotes aggressive sexual behaviour in men."

She added, "Many women do have a negative view of pornography, but as time is passing it is getting it out of the area."

Ms. MacLellan added that one result of her research pointed out the inclusion of women. "Every woman in the study said, 'I guess I see the way women are portrayed when done.' It's like her husband using pornography."

Elisabeth of St. James' U.C.W. thanked Ms. MacLellan for leading the discussion.

A copy of the Halifax Diocese study is available at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre.



Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia (WACNS) formed in Truro on February 7, 1987

- AWRC/AWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 1986-1987**
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Marge Barber | Joan Consten |
| Mary Foshay | Dorothy Gilson |
| Carol Kell | Grace MacKinnon |
| Sr. Mary MacLeod | Angela Miles |
| Sachi Shimotakahara | Helen Sinner |
| Rieky Stuart | Janet Tremblay |
- STAFF**
- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Star LeVatte-O'Neill | Diane MacKinnon |
|----------------------|-----------------|