

Community Soup Kitchen Broached

by Bonnie MacDonald

Members of the community met last Thursday to discuss the need for a community soup kitchen in the area. The meeting, held at the CACL workshop, was organized by the board of directors of the Antigonish Friendship Center.

Board chairperson Arthur Younger chaired the meeting.

"There are many persons in our community who are in dire circumstances, with nowhere to turn," Younger said. "Our food bank is taxed to the limits. People are finding themselves isolated, desperate and unable to cope. Social agencies can only do so much. The Friendship Center could present a

place to socialize and have a hot meal, and perhaps talk to someone rather than be alone. It would present a sense of belonging somewhere."

He said such a facility would serve to take some of the stress off the mental health services and other agencies in the community.

Younger told those gathered at the meeting that various individuals and community organizations have offered letters of support for the soup kitchen, including the Sisters of St. Martha, the Schizophrenia Society of Nova Scotia, the Antigonish Women's Resource Center, Collective Kitchens, administrators at St. Martha's Regional Hospital,

Dr. Stephen Gallant, the Antigonish Adult Learning Center, the St. F.X. University Students' Union, Women With Concerns, and Celtic Homes.

"The income provided by most provincial welfare programs is grossly inadequate for the vast majority of recipients, Younger said. "Yet some welfare recipients have actually seen their incomes decline in recent years. The situation is likely to deteriorate further as all levels of government tighten their purse strings."

There will be another public meeting, to discuss the organization of the soup kitchen, on February 20, 6:30 p.m. at the CACL. All are invited to attend.

~~Turn to page 38, col. 2~~



ANTIGONISH FRIENDSHIP Center board of directors, Art Younger (left), Joan Stockley, Birdie Johnson and Connie Langille, hosted an information meeting last Thursday, on the need for a soup kitchen in Antigonish. There will be another public meeting on February 20, 6:30 p.m. at the CACL. Also on the board of directors is Fran Nunn.