THE CASKET,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1999

# *Teen Educators Attend Conference*

On Saturday, June 4, six grade 11 and grade 12 students from Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School travelled to Truro to participate in the 13th Annual Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference. The six students had been invited by conference organisers to lead a one hour workshop on the topic of dating violence and sexual assault to approximately 40 workshop participants, mostly from the Atlantic region, but also from as far away as Winnipeg and the NWT.

Teens Take Action is a peer education group run by the Regional High School and the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre. Members receive education and training on issues relating to dating violence and sexual assault, as well as in presentation techniques. They go to St. Andrew's Junior School and Antigonish East Regional High School to facilitate workshops with grade eight students through the use of skits, brainstorming and other methods. "When I was in grade eight, some people came to our school and did a presentation. I know it really helped me a lot", says Melissa Berthiaume, one of the presenters. "So when I had the opportunity to become part of Teens Take Action, I decided it was my turn to help".

The workshop in Truro consisted of an abridged form of their presentation for grade eight students. They also reflected on some of their experiences in the program, what they found worked well, and what they found challenging. People attending the workshop were extremely enthusiastic about the peer educators program. Several asked if they would travel with their presentation. They were urged to apply for funding so that they would have the opportunity to take this information to other places.

Transportation for the students to Truro was provided by A.J. Sears from Eastern Auto and the Kinsmen Club of Antigonish.