



A GRADUATION CEREMONY was held recently at the Lion's Den, for the graduates of the On the Road to Employment program in Antigonish. On hand for the ceremony was project coordinator Heather Carson, (back left), participants Virginia Sylliboy, Margaret Ashe, Patricia Farrell, Bonnie Tramble, life skills facilitator Sherry Battiste, and participants Tracy Mattie, Cecelia, Cheryl Nickerson and Noreen George. (Ryan Gillis photo)

Employment program graduates honoured

Sister Carry On was the theme during the graduation ceremony held recently for eight women who graduated from the On the Road to Employment program.

The 18-week initiative, funded by Human Resources Development Canada and sponsored by the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, handed out certificates in seven areas. These include non-violent crisis intervention, first-aid and CPR, workplace hazardous materials information systems (WHMIS), food handlers, superhost, occupational health and safety and prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR).

Project coordinator Heather Carson

and life skills facilitator Sherry Battiste, congratulated the seven graduates who include Patricia Farrell, Noreen George, Tracy Mattie, Cheryl Nickerson, Virginia Sylliboy, Bonnie Tramble, Margaret Ashe and Cecelia Chisholm.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Lion's Den in Antigonish included speeches from Carson and Battiste, songs by the participants and facilitators including There are Women, The Other Side and Sister Carry On, a speech from Lucille Harper, director of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, valedictorian Noreen George's speech, a guest speaker, a lighting of candles, where participants

stood and stated who or what they lit a candle for, the awarding of certificates and a luncheon.

Valedictorian Noreen George says the 18-weeks she spent in the program were "wonderful."

"I was able to obtain the necessary tools needed further my horizons."

George says she particularly enjoyed the spirit of community and such a strong attitude of support from her fellow participants.

"It was great getting to know myself and my strengths while in the process of learning, reaching my goals and making new friendships."