The lasket

AWRC celebrates completion of renovation



Denise Bowman sits in her office at the newly renovated Antigonish Women's Resource Centre. (Connor MacEachern photo)

by Connor MacEachern connormacia:thecasket.ca

The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) held an open house Monday to celebrate their new office space.

"It's great," women's support worker Denise Bowman said. "It's much brighter and more comfortable"

The previous office – with its cramped quarters – could be a bit "in your face," she added.

The AWRC has been housed in the new space since May, and sexual assault nurse Angela Fougere said the extra room can afford more privacy.

"The examination room has a private entrance, so you don't have to go through the women's centre to get here," she said.

Fougere can collect sexual assault evidence and have it frozen for up to six months while the victim decides a course of action.

"We do the whole forensic aspect of it," she said.

A sexual assault phone line will be implemented in the next few weeks to make reporting assaults easier, she added.

Clare Mulcahy can take advantage of the extra space while she works on a project documenting women's contributions to Antigonish since 1900.

"I'm in here three or four times a week," she said in an examination room/office.

Her project is coming along well, she added.

"I've just finished the research, so now I'm on to interviews."

Interviews will be helpful because there hasn't been much work done on this subject before, she added.

The open house concluded with scheduled speeches by executive director Lucille Harper, Peggy Mahon and Maureen Shebib, Dr. Daphne MacLean, Liz Chisholm and Mulcahy



The newly renovated Antigonish Women's Resource Centre has more open space than the previous office. (Connor MacEachern photo)