

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
LABOUR TEMPLE, 3700 KEMPT RD. Halifax
LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP -- 424-4134 by March 1st. or share your concerns
by mailing them to: NDP PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN
1657 Barrington St. Suite 422
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A1



THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE has dwindled
significantly. We need help and would appreciate
fresh input. It is a commitment of one(1) day a month
(4 or 5 hrs.) and is lots of fun.

Please call 863-1407 or 863-1176 and "commit yourself."

MINUTES OF THE FEB. 12, 1985 BOARD MEETING

11 members of the board were present for
the meeting.

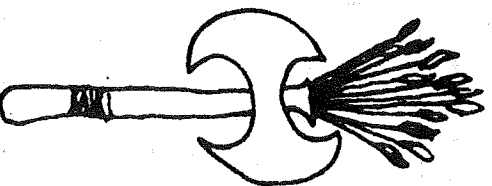
Oona elaborated on two conferences that were
mentioned in her report. The W.H.E.N
Conference will be held in Truro on April
26, 27, and 28. The other Conference is being put on
by The Extension Department at St. F.X. on May 24, 25,
26.

Ooana Landry has resigned from her job as
Co-ordinator, effective March 31, 1985.

Betty Maclean has resigned from her job as
Office Manager, effective March 31, 1985.

A proposal for an Outreach worker will be resubmitted.

Anyone interested in a more detailed study of
the minutes can drop into the Resource Center
and look them over.



"The art of being a
woman can never
consist of being a
bad mistress of a
man."

Oloa Knopf
Psychiatrist

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH PANEL

Discussion of Women in the Church
Today.

Panelists; Sr. Mary Eileen MacEachern
Sr. Joan Fultz, Sr. of

St. Martha.

Irene Leforte, Pres. Elect of
The OIL of Canada.

Madeline McGowan, Past National
Chairperson of United Church
Women.

Rev. Marian Stewart, Minister
Of various United Churches.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5--- 819 Nicholson
Hall at 8 PM. Come and hear these
local women speak .

WOMEN IN THE ANTIGONISH MOVEMENT

On Feb. 5, Dr. Dan MacInnis gave a talk on the Antigonish Movement and the women involved in its beginnings.

For those of us who weren't too familiar with the movement, he gave some background material tracing the movement from the 1924 conference to 1942 when women's formal involvement came to an end.

The Movement did not formally include women until 1938 when, at the Rural Industrial Conference, the 1st Women's Guild was formed as a separate but equal part of the Antigonish Movement. Before this, women didn't participate in the study groups that were being set up by Frs. Thompsons and Coady. In 1933, Sr. Marie Michael was hired to initiate Women's Study Clubs. The women then began to outnumber the men at the general meetings and began to look for membership on the boards of the Credit Unions and Co-ops.

As Frs. Coady and Thompsons traveled around starting study groups etc., it was left to the women in the office to keep things going, particularly Kay Thompson. Everything passed through her desk and without her organizational skills the movement could not have survived. This was also true of Zita O'Hearn (Cameron) who was hired in 1941 as a full time secretary to help A.B. MacDonald write his book about the Movement. Zita developed into the writer of pamphlets, wrote up rules on starting study clubs and co-ops and women's editor of the newsletter.

Women were at the nerve center of the Movement. They ran the office and did all the correspondence and mimeo work, created a library system and stocked the "travelling boxes" that were sent around to the study groups.

Sister Anslem(Doyle) did the monthly Credit Unions Reports and the Extension Publication was totally written by women. Fr. Coady bounced his ideas and speeches off his office workers(women) and many ingenious' solutions to problems came from the office.

Dr. MacInnis then deferred to Kay Thompson, Zita Cameron, Sr. Anslem(Doyle) and others who were in the audience. These unsung heriones of the Antigonish Movement are still vibrant, interesting and they gave us some insight into the '30's and '40's in Antigonish.

The Babysitting skills workshop, coordinated by Betty MacLean, Clementine Bijl and Janet Tremblay, was a resounding success. 48 people, ranging in age from 9 to 52 years old, received AWA certificates after the all day session.

The five instructors were excellent. And Baby Annie, from the department of Health did a superb job, as well.

W.H.E.N. Conference

PLAN NOW

Women and Mental Health conference

Truro--April 26-27-28th

It's going to be a big one so
Don't Miss it!!!!!!!!!!!!



"Frances Beynon in 1985 would be an outcast. She was too uncompromising. The world needs more Frances Beynons. I'm fond of her as a person and as a model--someone who doesn't back down. Today she would be one of the women at Greenham Common." Wendy Lill



The Fighting Days

Wendy Lill

You may have heard the CBC interview with Wendy Lill at the end of January or read about THE FIGHTING DAYS in national magazines. Keen AWARE reporters (you can be one too!) located playwright Lill before she went off to Cape Breton to research a play on unemployment she is working on with the Mulgrave Road Show Co-op. We talked to Wendy about THE FIGHTING DAYS, a play set in Winnipeg, in the Women's Suffrage movement just before World War I. Wendy wrote the play for the Prairie Theatre Exchange in 1983. She was attracted to this period because she felt it had a lot to say today. The struggle between men's and women's visions of reality, pacifism and war permeated the women's movement then as they do today. However, it's easier to talk and think about those issues long ago; it's not so threatening. "People like things at a distance", Wendy notes.

THE FIGHTING DAYS is framed in Frances Beynon's work in the suffrage movement in Winnipeg. It opens as Frances' sister Lilly brings her to the city after their cruel father's death. Frances meets Nellie McClung at Lilly's suffrage club. Nellie wins Frances' admiration through her idealism, her inspiring speeches and courageous work for suffrage. But after Frances finds her own voice as Women's Editor for the Rural News, she comes into conflict with Nellie over the issue of whether non-British immigrant women should have the vote. The first world war intensifies the conflicts between ideals and compromise with so-called reality. Here is the scene in which Frances' sister Lilly leaves for New York to follow her husband:

Nellie McClung and Frances say good-bye to her at the RR station.

NELLIE: I'll never forgive Vernon for taking you away.

LILLY: Vernon had no choice, Nell. No one will hire him here now.... nor probably anywhere in Canada with his views. At least in New York, he can write about what he believes.

NELL: You mean he can make a mockery of what our boys are fighting for!

FRAN: That's not what he's doing!

LILLY: Please, please, let's not talk about Vernon. Let's talk about ourselves. Can we? I feel so helpless right now. It used to be we'd talk about love and sisterhood...now we only talk about death and destruction. Will you take care of Fanny while I'm gone, Nell?

NELL: Of course I will.

FRAN: I'll be fine on my own.

NELL: You're very hard on people, Frances. When the war is over, we'll get the suffrage issue straightened out and there'll be a vote for everyone. Believe me, just like we've always dreamed. When the war is over.

Conductor: ALL ABOARD! (Nellie says goodbye and leaves)

LILLY: She was apologizing to you and you wouldn't accept it. I understand how Nellie feels, although I don't agree with it. She supports the war because her son is fighting in it. She has no choice. But that's no reason to turn your back on her, your best friend, your teacher, just because she didn't meet your high standards. How arrogant you are!

FRAN: But she gave up her dream.

LILLY: No she didn't. She just lost sight of it for a while. It happened to all of us, and it will happen to you too. You marry MacNair and have children, and you won't be so eager to pick up a banner or lead a parade. And the dream won't seem so crystal clear anymore and you'll be glad that there's someone who loves you and won't judge you for your every weakness.

FRAN: I don't know whether I can do that. I want to be free, Lilly. I don't know what more I can say than that.

LILLY: Fanny, you're never really free. You can frame a declaration of independence every day, but you won't be free. We're bound by our affections more than any legal contracts, or governments or causes. We're all trapped by something. The heart doesn't choose wisely, it just chooses.

Report on the Menopause Session

Dear Members;

Those of you who were unable to attend the Information Session on Menopause with Jane Haliburton, missed a most memorable evening.

The 40 persons who attended the session were informed entertained and thoroughly delighted with the entire evening.

Ms. Haliburton is well qualified to discuss the subject, being on the Faculty of Nursing at Dalhousie and also for "having been there". She shared her knowledge and experience in a professional, yet warm and witty manner. The A.V. resounded with laughter and applause frequently during the two hour period.

We came away from the session feeling better able to deal with, what is a normal phase of a woman's life.

As Ms. Haliburton pointed out, menopause is not something to be feared or hidden, it is, rather, a normal part of the aging process for women. We can help this process with a balanced diet and exercise.

We learned that over fifty percent of women never have any symptoms but those who do during this period of chemical change, should not hesitate to seek treatment. Understanding and support from family members are extremely important so, public education in this field is of prime importance. When more money becomes available for research in this field of gynecology, even more myths and fears will disappear.

The time will come (has already arrived for this reporter) when your skin tone will change and "character lines" will appear; your hair will develop a "salt and pepper" appearance and sa Ms. Haliburton said, "the load will shift". These are all a part of aging and not a cause for panic.

Ms. Haliburton is an excellent example of a woman in her "second half of life". What an example! What an inspiration! This white haired, robust lady with her vitality, numerous interests and delightful wit was an inspiration to us all !!!

Hope to see you at the Session on Aging coming up on Thursday March 7 at 7:30 P.M. at the Regional A.V.

The Speaker will be Mary O'Brien
"Clarabell"

URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT

Secretary of State's Womens Program, funding for work for womens equality, is under threat. This Program funds over 600 women's groups like the AWA. It also funds conferences, educational materials and programs and networking projects like the Pictou County project to help all those interested in working for battered women to share information. Women's groups across the country are therefore mobilizing to show support for the Womens Program. They are calling on all concerned people to send a telegram.

Chip with a few friends to send a telegram to PM Brian Mulroney and/or Walter McLean, Sec. of State and Minister responsible for the Status of Women. The phone no. for CN is toll-free: 1-800-565-7504 and will cost approx. \$5.00.

Suggested wording for the telegrams is as follows:

Hon. Walter McLean, Sec. State and Minister responsible for the Status of Women.
House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0M5;

We (I) congratulate you for continuing to work for improvement in the status of women. We (I) request your assurance that federal funds go only to groups that endorse sexual equality.

RT. Hon. Brian Mulroney, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A2

We (I) request assurance that federal funding go only to groups that endorse sexual equality in accordance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Give your full name and address for reply.

Pass this message on to any concerned people you know.

Coming events/

MARCH FILMS

4th to 8th:

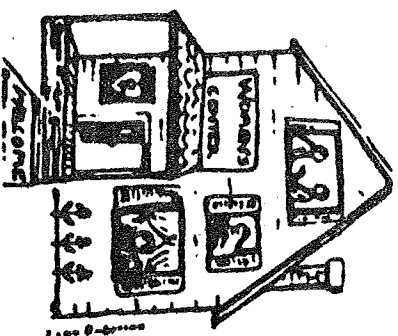
"Mother Of Many Children"

This film is an album of native womanhood, portraying a once proud matriarchal society who for centuries have been pressured to adopt different standards and customs, but who are now fighting for equal status and opportunity.

18th to 22nd:

"The Breast Feeding Experience"

This film discusses the advantage of breast-feeding to both mother and baby, based on the experiences of twenty women interviewed. What is one woman's joy is another's frustration, but although there are problems associated with breast-feeding, there are also constructive solutions. Both motivational and practical, this film approaches its subject honestly. It will assist expectant mothers by providing them with the information they may need.



TALK ON AGING

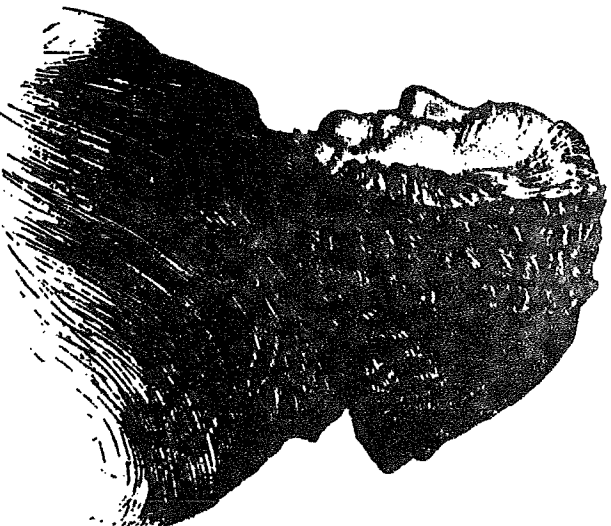
Dr. Mary O'Brien is being brought to Antigonish by the Resource Centre. Mary has a Ph.D. in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of Michigan and specializes in Aging.

At present, she is Visiting Professor of Aging at the University of Prince Edward Island. This position has involved conducting faculty seminars in aging, teaching classes in aging, consulting to community based agencies in aging, planning and implementing a Maritime conference on aging, and lecturing to community groups.

We are very fortunate that she was "in the neighborhood" and that she has agreed to come to Antigonish to speak with us.

Her talk is scheduled for THURSDAY, MARCH 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the Antigonish Regional High School AV 1.

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"Above the titles of wife and mother, which although dear, are transitory and accidental, there is the title human being which precedes and out-ranks every other."

Mary Livermore
Reformer

Calendar of Events

MARCH

5 TALK: "Women & Religion", Room B19 Nicholson, 8:00 p.m.

Week of 4th - 8th: FILM: "MOTHER OF MANY CHILDREN", everyday at noon hour and 7:30 p.m. on the 6th at the Resource Centre

6 Volleyball, St. Andrew Jr. High School, 7:00 p.m.

7 SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Mary O'Brien speaking on the topic of "AGING". Antigonish Regional High School AV 1 7:30 p.m.

8 *****INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY***** Tin Room, Coady

12 Bowling, 8:00 p.m.

12 WORKSHOP: "Non-Traditional Careers" for St. F. X. Women

13 Women's Support Group, 7:30 p.m., Resource Centre

13 Volleyball, St. Andrew Jr. High School, 7:00 p.m.

Week of 18th - 22nd: FILM: "The Breastfeeding Experience", everyday at noon hour and 7:30 p.m. on the 20th at the Resource Centre

20 Volleyball, St. Andrew Jr. High School, 7:00 p.m.

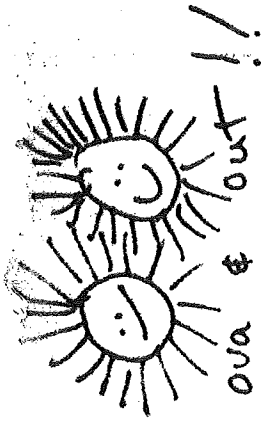
25 Care Giver Support Group, 7:30 p.m., Resource Centre

26 Bowling, 8:00 p.m.

27 Women's Support Group, 7:30 p.m., Resource Centre

27 Volleyball-
St. Andrew Jr. High School, 7:00 p.m.
Wendo Practice
Session, Oland Centre, 8:00 - 1:00.

30



OPEN HOUSE - MARCH 8th

Drop in at the Centre

There will be tapes of
shows on women's issues
and women's entertainment
all day long. Come in and
celebrate, say hello and
live it up!!!!!!!

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