

AWARE



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RESOURCE CENTRE: 863-6221

BATTERED WOMEN'S HELPLINE: 863-2852



RESOURCE CENTRE REPORT

October was a busy month - and it felt great!! Having our films run for a week is working out very well. The movies lined up for November are: "Arthritis: A Dialogue With Pain" and "Portrait of the Artist as an Old Lady (Para Skeva Clark)". There will be a representative of the Arthritis Society present for the showing of the arthritis movies on Wed., Nov. 7th at 7:30 p.m.

Angela Gillis gave an excellent talk on "Adolescent Suicide" for us but it would have been nice to see a larger number of people in attendance for such an important topic. Our speaker for this month is Ellie MacFarland (St. F.X. Nursing Dept.) and she will talk on the topic "Pre-Menstrual Syndrome". This will be held Nov. 22nd, 7:30 p.m., Antigonish Regional High School, AV Theatre 1.

As mentioned in another part of the Newsletter, we are in the process of starting a number of support groups enabling people to come together and discuss and support one another in their common concerns. If you have any suggestions for us or know anyone who could take advantage of this kind of group, please let us know (863-6222).

CHRISTMAS... We have ordered 50 copies of "EVERYWOMAN'S ALMANAC", AN Appointment Calendar and Handbook, to aid our fundraising efforts. These would make ideal Christmas presents and will be available here at the Resource Centre. Price \$7.95 - put your order in now...

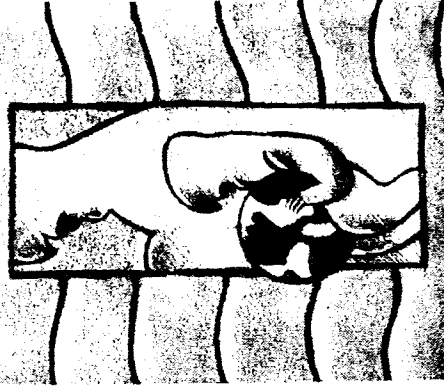
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RESOURCE CENTRE SCHEDULE

The AGIR Branch of the Registered Nurses Assoc. is presenting an afternoon session on Stress Management with Redge Craig of the Mar. School of Social Work. Attendance is limited to 100 persons so if you are interested in attending, mail your \$10.00 fee to the AGIR, Box 195, St.F.X.U., as soon as possible. This will take place Nov.30, 1-4 p.m. at Bethany.

Why not post your NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS somewhere prominent so you won't miss out on an activity of interest to you and so that attendance will grow at these events. The topics that will be covered in the upcoming months are all ones that people have asked for so lets see a better attendance.

EVERYWOMAN'S
ALMANAC
1985



EVERYWOMAN'S
ALMANAC

Appointment Calendar & Handbook



POLITICAL ACTION?

Why do people become involved in politics, in general and in political parties in particular? In the pursuit of an answer, I found myself examining my personal motives and it was a revealing exercise!

I grew up in a political household. We were interested in the political issues of the day — the civil rights movement in the United States, the war in Vietnam, the extension of the Iron Curtain. Our heroes were Martin Luther King, J. F. Kennedy, Angela Davis. I think in retrospect that we felt well informed on those issues, and convinced ourselves that once we were old enough to become actively involved we would solve all the problems of the world. Simple!

Our mother encouraged our premature political exchanges but left the involvement in the political party entirely to my father — he attended the back room meetings, organized the transportation on election day, worked on the committees, and waited for his reward. Of course he also became increasingly bitter when the payoff didn't materialize. Political lesson # 1!

As with a surprising number of aspects of my adult life, my political involvement began almost accidentally. I was asked during an election to perform a simple task which I completed somewhat reluctantly. But in that process I came to realize that politicians and their decisions in government were having a great effect on my life — day, care, school programs, availability of jobs, conditions in the workplace, union activities, the price of fuel, the cost of a loan.on and on.

Broader issues have since become vitally important — human rights issues in South America, our federal government's role in supporting what I perceive to be an increasingly imperialistic neighbour, environment issues, nuclear disarmament.

It finally became impossible to separate my daily life from my concern. The involvement with an organized political party was simply the practical application of that concern. And it has brought its rewards — the association with interesting people, the opportunity to influence policy and not least, the personal satisfaction that I am at least working at directing my critical nature into positive action.

SELF HELP GROUPS

WHAT CAN THEY DO FOR YOU?

An interest has been expressed by some women to get together to work on common problems shared by women, specifically in areas of single parenting, separated, divorced or widowed women, recovery from sexual or physical abuse. Women in the Women's Movement have used consciousness raising groups for years as a way to look at and understand our lives. The phrase "consciousness raising" refers to the understanding that took place as we began to realize more consciously that our own lives were similar to each other and that more than fighting personal battles we were facing extensive social problems. The self help group is more defined than the C.R. group in the sense that it narrows down the areas of concern as the main focus of the group.

Basically, the growth, strength and feeling of control over our lives which we get by working together is very empowering. In this process women become less isolated, learn to recognize and interpret their feelings and problems, begin to value friendships with other women, learn to utilize women as a reference group and to rely less heavily on the approval of man or men as the experts. We are the experts of our own experience. We have a lot to shape and a lot to learn from each other. We have women available who have experience working in self-help groups to help you organize what you need and get groups started.

Contact the Centre for more information. We hope to hear from you and remember; there is no limit to the areas of concern we can cover.

Call 863-6221, 9:30 to 4:30

*The country is yours ladies;
politics is simply a public affair.
Yours & mine & everyone's. The
government has enfranchised you
but it cannot emancipate you,
that is done by your own process
of thought.*



B. W. A.

*-Nellie McClung
1917*

1984 Leaders' debate on women's issues

WHAT THE P.M. SAID

PENSIONS

In Canada, 2/3 of elderly women earn under \$600/month, whereas the poverty line for a person living alone in a major urban centre is set at \$825/mo. Mr. Broadbent, would you agree to increase by 200/mo. the minimum General Income Supplement and extend it to cover the years from 60-64. If in the affirmative, how long would it take you to implement this program?

MULRONEY: Two elements in the population are particularly affected and are forgotten in legislation: (1) most homemakers; (2) women 60-65 years - and would deserve specific & urgent attention. I mentioned Parliamentary Study with Lora MacDonald's active part.) : is part of party program and part of party policies.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Another cause of poverty among women, is the fact that in Canada, the average salary of women is 60% that of men. Mr. Mulroney, will you give us your firm commitment to protect the equality rights of women by including the provision of Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value in contracts granted by government to the private sector? Would you give your commitment to refuse to deal with any business which does not apply the principle of Equal Pay for work of Equal Value?

MULRONEY: I am ready to go still further. The principle you mentioned has not been applied. Women are having to grieve the injustice of unequal pay) in order to get equal pay. It would be imperative for new gov't to give clear directives to the Treasury Board. It is important to give clear directives to correct the internal problems of the Federal government as an employer. It is unjust for the government to accept a principle and then stifle it in reality. Once internal matters corrected, would you go further to ensure equality & fairness with private) companies.

DIVORCE AND MAINTENANCE

Twenty percent of spouses default maintenance payments. The current Minister of Justice has indicated favourably to access to federal gov't data banks, allow seizure of federal payments including tax refund, UIC payments, federal pensions, in order to pay arrears in maintenance payments. Mr. Turner, if your party is rejected, will you introduce such measures?

MULRONEY: (After giving a description of a case, while he was a practicing lawyer in Montreal, said.) Should have a central registry, stop anyone from avoiding their legal and moral responsibility.

PORNOGRAPHY

Will you include gender under the late literature section of the Criminal Code?

MULRONEY: YES.

JOB TRAINING

One of the means to deal with low-paying jobs is vocational training. A number of women do not have access to federal programs because allowance received is too low and child care costs are too high. Furthermore, the majority of women who are registered in these programs are learning skills which lead to low-paying jobs and to disappearing occupations. Mr. Broadbent, what do you plan to do to remedy this?

(clarification requested)

...referring to vocational programs for acquiring new and different skills. Women are not registered proportionate to their numbers in the labour force and are registered in programs for jobs that will disappear eventually.

MULRONEY: If I understood the scope of the question, (with respect to) women in management in public service, this has dropped from 4.6% to 3.7%. It does take special measures to correct this. Our party has policy which addresses women reaching decision-making positions. It takes retraining and education.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

One Canadian woman in ten will be beaten by her husband or mate each year; a woman is raped every half hour in this country. Mr. Mulroney, for substantially less than it would cost to increase the size of the armed forces, the gov't could fund transition houses and rape crisis centres to meet the needs of women who are casualties of violence in Canada. In fact, for the same amount as it would cost for new uniforms alone, it is almost double what it would take to fund all rape crisis centres.

Would your government make adequate funds available to the provinces to fund transition houses for battered women and rape victims, and if so, when, and how much.

MULRONEY: The answer is yes and that a commitment has been made already. My government will provide moral leadership and matching (funds) and financial leadership intervention. I assure you we won't be reluctant to meet those needs.

MULRONEY (additional comment): This should be the first thing on order paper. Convene "national economic summit" to establish new goals and deal with these and other problems. Must involve provinces and trade unions. Will meet this moral obligation and meet it readily. Top of Order Paper for the entire country.

SURVIVAL (PEACE)

Gov't monies invested in social programs generate four times as many jobs as monies invested in missiles. Recent survey indicates 85% Canadians support nuclear freeze. Will you commit to decrease expenditures on arms, increase the budget for social programs and support a nuclear freeze?

MULRONEY: (1) Canada has important contractual relations with NATO; (2) will promote resumption of Geneva talks; (3) promote interest of peace and help in search for formula to attain a peace.

JOB CREATION

Unemployment is at a high level. Canadians look to government for job creation programs, even though jobs created are usually short term. Money is now directed to jobs which women are not in, such as construction and public works. Women's share in these programs has declined in the last 6 years. How would you ensure that job creation programs create meaningful, full-time, permanent jobs and that women get their fair share of those jobs?

MULRONEY (additional comment): This applies to Crown Corporations. It is unacceptable that women themselves have to grieve and prove the injustice.

PART-TIME WORKERS

Twenty-five percent of Canadian women now on the labour market work part-time and 75% of part-time workers are women. The Wallace Commission recommended, last year, that benefits be paid to part-time workers on the same basis as full-time workers, benefits be pro-rated for the amount of time they work to all categories of part-time work. Amendments to the Canada Labour Code did not include protection for part-time workers. Mr. Turner, would your party agree to introduce amendments immediately to the Canada Labour Code, requiring payment of benefits to all classes of part-time workers.

MULRONEY: What is lacking in the area is a mutually accepted definition by the unions and people involved of the permanency of part-time work. The Federal gov't could do well to follow some of the principles and accomplishments, even modest ones, realized in provincial jurisdictions where they are much further ahead (with) pro-rated benefits and adequate acceptance of the notion in the manner in which it should be rewarded. We can move ahead, put it in place, one notion of definition accepted.

PENSIONS- FOR HOMEMAKERS

Mr. Turner, re. homemakers who spend most of their lives at home and cannot participate in the CPP, QPP. Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform recommended that there be changes to include homemakers directly into the CPP & QPP and to legislate the equal sharing of pensions between spouses. Will your party support these measures and negotiate vigorously with the provinces to see them implemented, as soon as possible?

MULRONEY: Homemakers pension question well-handled in the all-party Parliamentary Task Force. It indicated, in an evolutionary way, to accomplish this without cost being unbearable. There are savings to be realized - given some members' suggestions. Obligation of the State to make sure that we provide more than just subsistence against poverty. High priority in the next session of parliament.

DEFICIT

We have already seen in British Columbia how budget trimming has been used to slash programs for women & children-everything from child abuse, education to Human Rights. Mr. Mulroney, can you assure us, that in your effort to reduce the deficit, or hold it where it is, and meet all your promises, can you assure us that you won't cut any social programs?

MULRONEY: Yes, I can give you the assurance that no social program at all, affecting anyone in need, shall be touched by a Progressive Conservative government. I can give you that (assurance) without any hesitation.

Before The Federal Election in August, AWA members met with the three candidates at the Resource Centre to make them more aware of women's concerns and to hear their proposals and ideas. We thank all three candidates for taking the time to meet with us. In this election, the Social Action Committee drafted an Open Letter to the Candidates, published in the CASKET this week. We urge you to exercise your rights as a citizen: KNOW THE CANDIDATES, PRESSURE THE CANDIDATES, SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATE, GET OUT THE WOMEN'S VOTE, KNOW THE ISSUES; ASK THE QUESTIONS. Women's Activity at all levels will eventually insure the we are proportionally represented in the decision making of the country.

Dear Candidate:

In recent years women have become a much more active and aware part of the political life of our country. Our concerns for women's needs and for our communities received wide attention during the recent federal election from all three parties.

Women (a majority at 52% of the population), have consistently shown active interest in the needs of the community. Women have always contributed to community life through their churches, schools, in volunteer work and in primary, unpaid production. Today the service sector of the economy depends on women's paid work and volunteer work.

The economic condition of women is important, as women are now the sole support of many children and make an essential financial contribution to most household budgets. There would be 50% more families below the poverty line if women were not in the labour force. With the poverty line for a small family in Nova Scotia at about the same as men's average income in our province, it is women's contributions that keep those families above the poverty line.

Some areas of particular concern to us as women are:

Child Care: Women's wages are so low that many women cannot afford to work. Even so, 42% of women in Antigonish county participate in the labour force. Day Care for children is expensive at \$12/day in a licensed day care and near that in private daycares, which are often crowded and limited in their programs. Right now there are only 20 subsidized places for children from low income families available in our area and these positions are not filled because of difficulties in qualifying for the subsidy.

We need high quality, affordable child care.

Violence: With cable TV channels, videos, and the proliferation of "Men's" magazines, violent and degrading images of women and children assault us in public and come into our homes. Portrayal of sexual relationships in terms of power and violence is mirrored by violence in families.

We need to increase people's awareness of the harm pornography does to all of us. We need stable funding for transition houses, support groups for victims of family violence, and a strong educative program directed at professionals who come in contact with victims of family violence. We also need preventative programs in school and education aimed at the general public.

Jobs and Training: Women and men traditionally work in different jobs. Female jobs are relatively underpaid by any measure of comparable skill, training, responsibility, and working conditions.

Women's work in the service sector is particularly underpaid. Day care workers and transition house workers are a good example. Very close to home, compare the pay of cafeteria workers (nearly all women) to the pay of grounds keepers (nearly all men) at St. F. X. Because of their responsibilities at home, women must take part-time work which is poorly paid, less secure, and offers fewer benefits than full-time work. We need access to and training for non-traditional jobs, equal pay for work of equal value, and comparable pay, security and pro-rated benefits for part-time work.

Social Services: Provincial government family support programs provide subsistence incomes that fall well under the poverty line. Nova Scotia maximum rates in 1984 are:

one adult and one child	\$631./month
one adult and two children	747./month
third and sixth child	79./month/child
after sixth child	41./month/child

In our area, concern for saving money results in real suffering for women and children. Extreme poverty prevents welfare recipients from taking the steps to be self-supporting. Provincially, unwed mothers under the age of 19 are not eligible for family benefits. Often government policy contributes to dependence on the welfare system from one generation to the next. We need higher minimum levels of family benefits and adequate support for all mothers and children. The stigma of receiving family benefits must be lessened by raising awareness that women who work in the home and raise children make an important economic and social contribution.

We hope your party shares the commitment to improve women's conditions and to respond to women's concerns for our communities. We hope your party will play a large role in proposing social programs and legislation to decrease women's vulnerability to poverty and violence and enable women's full participation in economic, political and cultural life.



MINUTES

The following is a summary of the minutes of the most recent Board meeting of the Antigonish Women's Association, held on October 4, 1984.

- The A.W.A. Board met on October 4, 1984.
- There were 12 Board members present.
- Barbara MacDonald was welcomed as the Association's new President.
- Angela Miles, Janet Tremblay, and Mary Burns were appointed to serve on the Personnel Committee, along with one non-voting member of the Executive.
- The proposed procedures of the Personnel Committee were accepted.
- Patricia Mifflin and Ann Uloth were nominated to serve as Board Members.
- Vicky MacLean and Diane MacKinnon were nominated to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- The Membership Committee reported that a total of \$232.00 was realized from the membership drive and pantry sale that was held at the Mall on September 21st.
- The Fundraising Committee will give members a year-long projection of fundraising plans and projects.
- Vicky MacLean has joined the Public Relations and Publicity Committee.
- Janet Tremblay and Denise Donovan have resigned from the Program Committee. The Board is looking for two members to take their place.
- Margaret Buoy has resigned as Treasurer. We are now looking for someone to fill this position.
- The next Board meeting will be held on November 1st at 7:00 p.m.

*****BLESSSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS*****

When the Peace Petition Caravan came through Antigonish, a small group of people including Barbara Hayes and Bishop Power received them. Barbara Hayes' moving address follows here:

MESSAGE TO THE PEACE PETITION CARAVAN

OCTOBER 1, 1984

ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA

In preparing for today with limited time I found myself thinking - well, if each town is having an event, what should ours be - something positive, enduring . . . It became very clear to me the event is life - the work and commitment is - quality of life. As a woman and a mother it is very clear to me I choose life for myself and my children - as individuals - men and women - we have the power to choose life - we have a voice, we have a vote and we have the inner spiritual connection with the miracle of creation and the beauty of this planet - which is our home. If we can start loving this home of ours and loving ourselves as part of it - seeing the interconnectedness of all life. We can focus on this with our children - all children that they feel wanted, loved and cared for. That our priorities include as most important the raising of healthy, loved children, which will be a radical priority as it is now at the bottom of our national and international priority list.

Working to live in a balance of love and co-operation instead of competition and power. Peace is defined as the absence of war therefore it is still defined by war. Violence in our world societies is acute. We will have to examine the place of joy, happiness and emotional well-being in our lives. The wheels of our global village are now greased by suppressing these emotions in large numbers of people so a few may feel worthwhile.

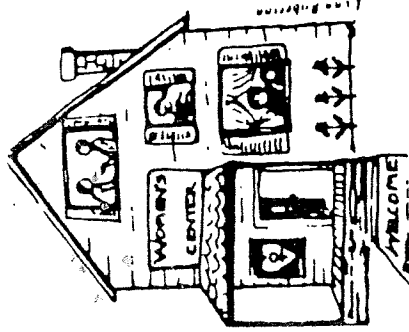
The balance of power is shaky at best and the means to achieve it are life-threatening to all of us. The concept of prevention is gaining credibility. Learning to envision a peaceful world is in itself a difficult task. We begin to look for something to work towards instead of something to work against (as we have been doing). We realize this involves equality of men and women, of Black people, Indian people - all suppressed groups.

How we reward people, how people feel recognized and worthwhile - how we organize ourselves economically - all will have to be examined and decisions made that are more equitable and productive toward a peaceful world.

So I wish you luck in carrying this message of peace with you to our political leaders.

Thank you.

Barbara Hayes
(Peacemaker)



NOVEMBER

1 - AWA Board Meeting

6 - "Women in Community" Non Degree Course (7-9 p.m.)

WEEK OF 5 - 9th: FILM: Arthritis: A Dialogue With Pain. A resource person will be in attendance. Everyday at noon hour and Wed. Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Resource Centre

7 - Volleyball (7-9 p.m.) St. Andrew's Jr. High

13 - Bowling (8-9 p.m.)

Women in Medical Society - Free lecture Pat Hogan - Tues. 13th Nov. 8.00

14 - Volleyball (7-9 p.m.) St. Andrew Jr. High

20 - "Women in Community" Non Degree Course (7-9 p.m.)

WEEK OF 19th - 23: FILM: Portrait of the Artist as an Old Lady (Para Skeva Clark). Every day at noon hour and Wed. Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m., Resource Centre

21 - Volleyball (7-9 p.m.) St. Andrew Jr. High

22 - SPEAKER: "Pre-Menstrual Syndrome" - Ellen MacFarlane
Antigonish Regional High School, AV Theatre 1, 7:30 p.m.

23 - FARM WOMEN'S DAY - Claymore Motel Banquet Room (9-3)

27 - Bowling (8-9 p.m.)

28 - Volleyball (7-9 p.m.) St. Andrew Jr. High

30 - SPEAKER: Reg. Craig (Halifax); Auditorium at Bethany
(1-4 p.m.) He will be zeroing in on STRESS MANAGEMENT.

CRAFTS SALE

Crafts Antigonish will hold their annual pre-Christmas sale at the

Royal Canadian Legion

Friday, November 23rd

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



LOST from the Resource Centre: One set of 4 keys on key chain with small white knife and pictures from the Coady supper at Crystal Cliffs.

