



AWARE

WINTER 2003

Winter Greetings from the AWRC staff...

Warm greetings to everyone from the staff at the Centre. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the best for the year 2003. Although funding issues remain a concern for the Centre, we are determined to push forward.

Having said that, we look forward to offering our support services in the new year. We have a great line up of programs for women of all ages. Be sure to check them out. As always, if you have a free moment, please drop in to say hello. We always enjoy your visits; especially during the lunch hour. You never know, a good debate may arise.



If you would like more information, or to find out how you can help, please call or visit the centre. Hope to see you there!

— *Charlie ten Brinke*

Winter Greetings from the Board of Directors...

The Board of Directors would like to wish members and friends a Happy New Year! We hope that 2003 is a great year for you and your loved ones. We also hope that 2003 will see a resolution to the funding crisis currently

surrounding women's centres in the province. You can find out more about the current status of this issue inside.

In this issue . . .

Funding crisis for women's centres

New Logo for AWRC

Income Tax Preparation

Spring "Free Store"

Feminist Voices for Peace

Why the U.N. Matters

Spring 2003 Programs

Fundraising Dance

IWD: International Women's Day

On the Road to Employment



AWA phone: 863-6221

AWAre editor:

Charlie ten Brinke

**Submissions to AWAre
can be emailed to
aware_news@yahoo.ca**

You're in luck! The AWA still has a limited number of the following items available:

Cookbooks \$15.00

AWA mugs \$15.00

Blank Greeting Cards \$8.00



Meaghan MacIntyre to give presentation

Meaghan MacIntyre will make a presentation on her thesis on Monday, February 24 at noon, at the AWRG.

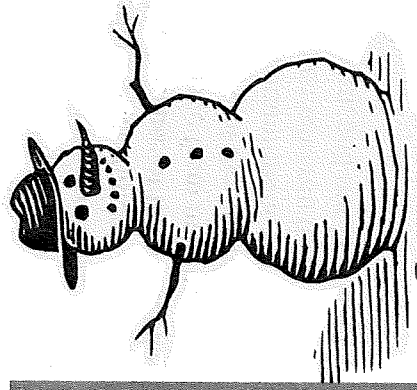
Abstract of thesis: The Zapatista uprising and the Revolutionary Women's Law have implicitly and explicitly gendered consequences and implications. In "Women Have the Right..." I use the Zapatistas' Revolutionary Women's Law to explore the ways in which women participated in and were affected by the 1994 uprising and the subsequent events in Chiapas, Mexico. While women's activism and involvement is not new, they ways in which they act and react in this context are different. The underlying question concerns the potential for the Zapatistas' project in general. If the Zapatistas are unable to adequately address issues surrounding political participation, the public-private dichotomy, violence, and nationalism, to what extent is their project compromised? Ultimately, the extent to which the Zapatistas and the Revolutionary Women's Law have had a positive effect on the lives of women in Chiapas may symbolize the overall

Dance Away the Winter Blues!

As part of our fundraising efforts, a dance was held at the Antigonish Royal Canadian Legion on Saturday, February 1, 2003. All proceeds were donated to the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre. A special thanks goes to Phillippe Babin (Twilight Music), the Fundraising Committee, the Legion, the bouncers and to all those who volunteered their time to work at the dance. A special thanks also goes to Sherry Baptiste for co-ordinating this event.

Despite the winter weather conditions, about 65-75 people showed up at the dance to support the Centre. Ronalda Doyle was the winner of a 50/50 ticket draw which was held during the dance. A total of \$490.00 was raised for the fundraising event. Everyone enjoyed the dance; in fact some were asking when the next dance was going to be held. We hope to hold another dance in May - details will be announced in the spring.

Thanks to all who participated! We look forward to dancing the night away with you again in the spring!



The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre is looking for volunteers to assist low income families fill out their income tax forms. If you are interested in helping out please call 863-6221.

If **YOU** would like to take part in the committees of the AWA, call the centre at 863-6221. Some committees in need of help are:

- Social Action
- Membership
- Fundraising
- Newsletter

AWRC Funding Crisis Has Not Been Resolved

by
**Katherine Reed &
Lucille Harper**

The appearance that the funding crisis affecting women's centres, transition houses, and men's intervention programs has been resolved is unfortunate and inaccurate. The truth is that things are very much up in the air. Women's centres have been working, through our provincial organization, to demonstrate our distinct and essential role in the area of women's services and our need for adequate levels of funding to enable us to respond to the demand for our services and programs.

Since the AWRC opened in 1983, we have experienced an ever-increasing demand for assistance to individual women, and for our involvement in community-based initiatives. To these initiatives we bring women's unique perspectives and we support the involvement and leadership of women. There has also been steadily increasing demand for our in-house programs for women. These programs address women's personal development needs as well as providing education and fostering mutual support.

This increase in activity and involvement is a testament to our hard work and our effectiveness. Yet, aside from the ground-breaking step the provincial government took

almost ten years ago when they began to provide us with annual operational funding, there has been little recognition of our work and our substantially increased workload. Every month, between 150 and 240 women contact the AWRC for information and support.

Last year when the April 4 provincial budget announced funding cuts that would impact our women's centre, the community rallied decisively. Within three day more than 1,000 signatures were collected on a petition urging the provincial government to provide secure and adequate funding to the AWRC. The community resoundingly expressed their support for the Women's Centre and the services we provide.

Almost one year later, the AWRC remains insecure and negotiations with the Department of Community Services are on-going. Senior level officials have been engaged in talks with a coalition of the women's centres, transition housings, and men's intervention programs impacted by the proposed cuts. Government is still looking for ways to rationalize and downsize these distinct and essential services. They are making no commitment whatsoever to continued funding at levels that would sustain us. In fact, the government is still talking about "finding efficiencies" in our organizations' budgets in spite of the fact that women's centres are substantially underfunded. We are able to survive because of the tremendous support we have from members of our communities and the incredible ingenuity, commitment, and persistence of the women who run these centres and staff them, and our boards of directors.

A further challenge we face is the possibility that the next provincial election campaign will begin before the current government makes a commitment to meet our funding needs. Our fear is that a government who has no interest in adequately supporting essential services to women (and indeed supporting their future growth and development) could be elected without the women of this province having understood the candidates' true intentions and positions on this issue.

So there you have it. This is certainly not a "case closed" situation. Your support is still needed to make it clear to government officials and any candidates running for government office that the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, and indeed all women's centres, transition houses and men's intervention programs provide distinct and essential services and programs to the people of Nova Scotia. As such they deserve stable funding at adequate levels so they can meet current needs, build upon the strengths in their communities, and grow to meet future needs.

As much as we love to celebrate our successes in the struggle for women's equality, we have much work to do to get us there, and we cannot do it without the support of women and the engagement of women in the electoral process.

On the Road to Employment- Project Update by Heather Carson Project Coordinator

This is a wonderful course for every woman. For me it has been a great boost for my confidence, self-esteem, computer skills, and it has also shown me many things our community has to offer in the way of education, training, and many other things.

—Program Participant

On January 17, 2003, seven women graduated from our most recent On the Road to Employment program and are now on their way to achieving the goals they have set for themselves. This 18 week re-entry project is divided into two parts. The first component is comprised of life skills and personal development topics such as values, self-esteem, communication skills, assertiveness training, conflict resolution, and stress management. Participants also explore issues related to women's health and examine both societal and personal barriers to education opportunities and employment.

The second component deals with

developing employability skills including résumé and cover letter writing skills, job interview skills, presentation skills, basic computer skills, writing and grammar skills, goal setting, and Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR). Participants receive a number of certificates including First Aid and CPR, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, WHMIS, Occupational Health and Safety, Food Handlers, and SuperHost. They also complete a Career Directions Inventory and explore trends in the job market.

Although participants generally choose to participate in the program because of one or two specific aspects they identify as particularly important, most report that they are surprised by the amount of skills and knowledge they gain that affect many areas of their lives. One participant stated, "I was able to get a 'life' outside my families and loved ones that was really my own. My computer skills have increased considerably. I know so much more than I ever thought possible, and

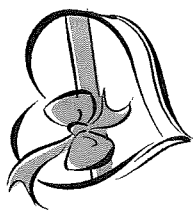
I'm still learning. I'm still nervous to talk in a crowd, but my presentation skills have increased and so has my own comfort level." Many participants particularly appreciated the opportunity to complete their portfolio. As one participant stated, "The Portfolio helped me get what I want and it will help me achieve my goals."

Project staff, Heather Carson and Sherry Battiste, are busy preparing for a new program to begin on February 10, 2003.

Twelve participants will participate in this program that will run until the end of June. If you are interested in learning more about the program, or want to be placed on a waiting list for future

Happy Valentine's Day!

*Do something nice for
the special person in
your life-
YOU!*



Spring 2003 Programs

These are some of the programs which will be offered starting May 2003- more details will follow, but pre-registration is available.

Stage I Therapy Group for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Embracing Ourselves

Assertiveness Training

Inspire- peer support group for adolescent girls

Divorce & Separation group- minimum 6 participants required.

Smoking Cessation Program for low-income women sponsored by Addiction Services and the Antigonish Town and County Community Health Board - ATCCHB is held at the AWRRC each week from 3-5 p.m.

For more information, or to register, call the centre at 863 - 6221. Please specify whether you prefer morning or evening sessions.



"Rejuvenate for Spring" tickets are available for the Spring Fundraiser! 1st prize:

\$50.00 worth of Lobsters from Arisaig Fisheries, 9 pc pot set from Highland Home Hardware, \$40.00 gift certificate from Super Valu. 2nd Prize: Dinner for 2 from Maritime Inn, 2 therapeutic massages from Yvonne Landry & 2 haircuts from Cheryl's Place. Ticket price: \$2.00

A Happy New Year!
each or a book of 3 for \$5.00

Income Tax Preparation:

Assistance is available for low-income women and their families with income tax preparation. Women interested in this service are advised to bring all of their tax papers into the centre now.

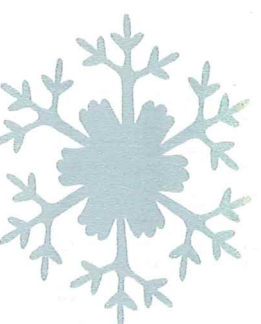


The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre is pleased to present it's new logo! We have continued to use the tulip image, but with a fresh new design.

Special thanks go out to the designers of the logo, Julia Redgrave and Brian G Segal, of Redgull Incorporated. Julia and Brian were kind enough to donate their professional services to the centre.

Redgull can be found online at: <http://www.redgull.com>

Redgull is a professional member of Graphic Designers Association of Canada, the Association of Internet Professionals and Creators of the Eb 'n Flo comic strip!

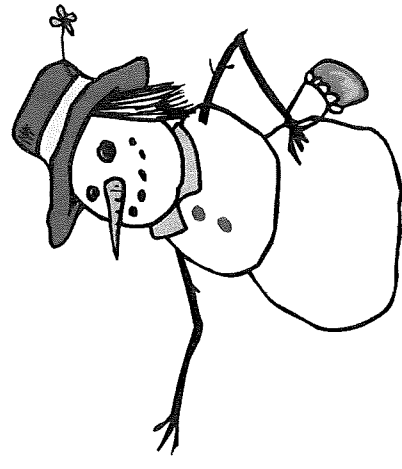


AWRC Staff

Lucille Harper, Director
 Katherine Reed, Women's Programming
 Amanda Workman, Crisis Support Worker & CASAC project
 Isabel Gillis, Crisis Support Worker
 Vangie Babin, Office Manager
 Christine Hanlon, Book-keeper
 Heather Carson, Re-Entry - Project Co-ordinator
 Sherry Battiste, Re-Entry - Life Skills Facilitator
 Pamela Fry, Stepping Forward - Project Co-ordinator
 Life Literacy - Project Co-ordinator
 Jean Crosby, Rural Youth Project - Project Co-ordinator
 Jackie Jacques, Rural Youth Project- Office Administrator
 Krista DeCoste, Rural Youth

AWA Board of Directors - 2003

Charlie ten Brinke
 Donna MacDonald
 Elsa Arbuthnot
 Heather Mayhew
 Juanita Orhling
 Leslie Buckland-Nicks
 Lynn O'Donnell
 Marion MacDonald
 Mary Turay
 Nancy Forestell



Announcing the 4th Annual Free Store!

In March of 2000, Ellen Broderick, a student at St. Francis Xavier University, realized that as many students were preparing to leave campus they were throwing out many valuable food and clothing items. She brought her concerns to the AWA and its members devised a program for collection and distribution of these items throughout the community. All food collected from the departing students is given to the food bank and the clothing and other items are placed in a "Free Store", where anyone in need may obtain them free of charge. Last year high school students Caitlin Hughes and Claire Mulcahy took on the task and did an excellent job of organizing the Free Store. This April will see the forth-annual Free Store and with the continued involvement of the students we hope to continue this tradition for years to come. If you have any more questions about the Free Store, or are interested in becoming involved with the program please contact

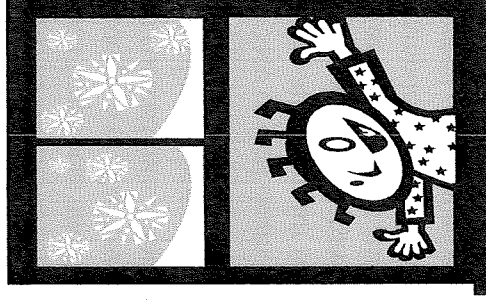
Watch for up-coming details for the IWD (International Women's Day- 8th of March) celebrations. Details will be advertised in the Casket, and posters will be hung around town. Don't miss it- it's always a great event!!

Dear friends of Medicare:

Crucial decisions, affecting our future, will be made soon, in a First Ministers' meeting on health-care. (It's planned for early 2003.) Prime Minister Chrétien, and the Premiers, must hear - strong and loud - the voice of Canadians, eager to strengthen Medicare.

An online petition, demanding full implementation of the Romanow Report recommendations has been created. It only takes a minute to sign! You can access the petition at:

www.petitiononline.com/romanow



Why we need Women's Actions and Feminist Voices for Peace

by Starhawk
(edited for space)

Among the hundreds of groups and actions being mounted against the war in Iraq are a significant number organized by women. Code Pink: Unreasonable Women for Peace has disrupted Congressional hearings and mounted an ongoing women's peace vigil at the White House since November 17. Women in black hold vigils in hundreds of communities around the world on a regular basis. Women Rising for Peace and Justice, the women's caucus of United for Peace, has issued a call for January 17 to be a day of women's actions against the war. Women are deeply impacted by war, racism and poverty - the three evils named by Martin Luther King. But when we stand for peace as women, it is not to make a case for our special victimhood, but to represent a different vision of strength. Women-initiated and women-led actions have a special energy and power. That power comes not from excluding men, but because of the joy and visionary potential that arise when we come together as women to defend the values of life and caring that we hold dear.

To defend those values, we need feminist voices. For feminism allows us to analyze patriarchy, the constellation of values, ideas and beliefs that reinforces male control over women. No set of qualities is innately or exclusively 'female' or 'male'. Men can be compassionate, loving and kind, as women can be

tough, brave, or callous. But patriarchy assigns the qualities associated with aggression and competition to men, and relegates to women the devalued roles of nurturing and service. Patriarchy values the hard over the soft, the tough over the tender; punishment, vengeance and vindictiveness over compassion, negotiation, and reconciliation. The 'hard' qualities are identified with power, success and masculinity, and exalted. The 'soft' qualities are identified with weakness, powerlessness, and femininity, and denigrated.

Under patriarchy, men are shamed and considered weak if they exhibit qualities associated with women. Politicians win elections by being tough - tough on terror, tough on crime, tough on drugs, tough on welfare mothers. Calls for cooperation, negotiation, compassion or recognition of our mutual interdependence are equated with womanly weakness. In the name of 'toughness', the power holders deprive the poor of the means of life, the troubled and the ill of treatment and care, the ordinary citizen of our privacy and civil rights. Force, punishment, and violence are patriarchy's answer to conflicts and social problems. Patriarchy finds its ultimate expression in war. War is the field in which the tough can prove their toughness and the winners triumph over the losers. Soldiers can be coerced into dying or killing when their fear of being called womanlike or cowardly overrides their reluctance to face or deal death. War removes every argument for tenderness and dissolves all strictures on violence. War is the justification for the clampdown that lets the rulers impose control on every aspect of life.

Wise feminists do not claim that women are innately kinder, gentler, more compassionate than men perse. If we did, the Margaret Thatchers and Condoleeza Rice's of the world would soon prove us wrong. We do claim that patriarchy encourages and rewards behavior that is brutal and stupid. We need raucous, incautious feminist voices to puncture the pomposity, the arrogance, the hypocrisy of the war mongers, to point out that gorilla chest-beating does not constitute diplomacy, that having the world's largest collection of phallic projectile weapons does not constitute moral authority, that invasion and penetration are not acts of liberation.

And we need to remind the world that modern warfare never spares the civilian population. Rape is always a weapon of war, and women's bodies are used as prizes for the conquerors. Women and children and men, too, who have no say in the policies of their rulers face death, maiming, wounding, and the loss of their homes, livelihoods, and loved ones in a war.

Patriarchy is the brother of racism, which sets one group of people above another, dehumanizing and devaluing the 'other', who is seen as deserving of punishment, fair game for violence and annihilation. We need feminist voices for peace because the issues of women's freedom and autonomy are being used cynically to justify anti-Arab racism and military takeovers of Arab countries. The U.S. and its allies, who now pose as the liberators of women in the Muslim world, are the same powers which gave the Taliban, Saddam Hussein, and Al Qaeda their start-up funds,

(Continued)

supported them and put them in power, with no consideration for their impact on women. The 'liberators' of Afghan women ignored the grassroots women's organizations such as RAWA, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, installed a new government almost equally as oppressive as the Taliban, and excluded the heraic women who have risked their lives to educate their daughters and maintain some sense of freedom under oppressive rule.

We protest the hypocrisy which trumpets the oppression of women in Arab societies while the oppression of women in the West is never raised as an issue. Nor is the racism, economic oppression and endemic violence of Western culture acknowledged when the West is hailed as the flag bearer of freedom. Women cannot walk safely through the streets of the West, nor can we be assured of the means of life for our children, of health care in our illnesses, of care and support in our old age. The ongoing daily violence against women and children worldwide, the violence of battering, sexual assault, poverty, and lack of opportunity, the global traffic in women's bodies, is ignored. And the vast global inequalities which benefit the West are also not acknowledged. Nor is the history, that Western exploitation of the East and South generated the wealth that allowed our greater 'development' and 'enlightenment'.

Oppression of women is real, in Muslim societies and non-Muslim societies, around the globe. But women cannot be liberated by the tanks and bombs of those who are continuing centuries-old policies of exploitation, commandeering

resources for themselves, and fomenting prejudice against the culture and heritage which is also a deep part of a woman's being. We need a feminist voice for peace to say that those who truly care about life and freedom will work to support, not conquer, those women in every culture who are struggling for liberation and social justice.

The war against Iraq is not about safety, security, or liberation. The war's real aims include gaining control of Iraq's rich oil reserves and establishing U.S. hegemony over the Middle East. Racism is the ideology of empire, the set of beliefs that tell us we deserve to rule because we are superior to some other group. Racism and patriarchy are the recruitment tools for the legions of enforcers: the soldiers, police, and officials who protect institutions of power. Patriarchy, homophobia, discrimination against Arabs and Muslims, anti-Semitism, and all forms of prejudice keep our eyes trained downward, looking at those we see as beneath us, instead of looking upward and seeing clearly how we are being manipulated.

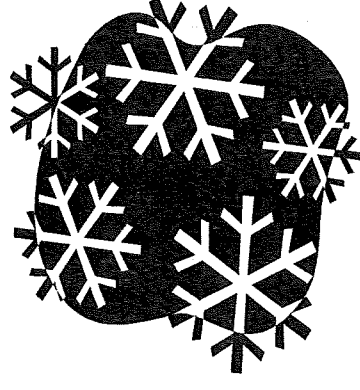
We need strong feminist voices to cry out that there is no hierarchy of human value, that every child must be cherished, that we claim common ground with women, children, and men around the world. Oil is the lifeblood, and the military is the ultimate enforcer of economic policies which disenfranchise the poor and undercut the livelihoods of working people around the globe, consolidating wealth and power in fewer hands, devouring the family farm, the old growth forest and the last remaining wilderness, poisoning the atmosphere, disrupting the earth's climate and threatening every life

support system of the planet. The global corporate capitalist system also exalts toughness and ruthless competition, and exhibits utter disdain for caring, compassion, and nurturing values. Women staff the maquiladoras and the sweatshops that produce the cheap goods of the global economy. The vast majority of the worlds poor are women and children. A feminist voice for peace must identify and address the root causes of war. "Peace" cannot be separated from justice, including economic justice. And real security can only come when we weave a new global web of mutual aid and support.

We need women's actions, to make these larger connections, to assert that compassion is not weakness and brutality is not strength, to dramatize our support for nurturing and life affirming values. And ultimately, we need women and men both to join our voices and roar like a mother tiger in defense of our interconnectedness with all of life, the true ground of peace.

Information on upcoming women's actions can be found on www.codepink4peace.org or www.unitedforpeace.org. For more information on the Women's Vigil and January 17 events, contact the Women's Peace Vigil at 202-393-5016.

Starhawk's website is



"Why the UN Matters" - by Peggy Mason

If the UN did not exist, who would do its work? Now that the full scale bombing of Afghanistan is over, just about the only task in that country the UN has not been given responsibility for is security. As the countryside slowly deteriorates into near civil war conditions, the USA continues to oppose a country-wide international security force because it does not want pressure to participate and fears it might get in the way of its Al Qaeda hunting activities. This shortsighted action puts the very future of Afghanistan at risk and graphically illustrates why America is profoundly unsuited to the nation building activities in which the UN is engaged around the globe.

Typical of those activities is the UN's responsibility in Bosnia for law enforcement, humanitarian relief, refugees, demining, human rights, rehabilitation of infrastructure and economic recovery. The UN heads the interim government in Kosovo. In East Timor, following the departure of the Australian-led stabilization force, the UN successfully led the war ravaged country to independence from Indonesia, through the election of a new government and into full membership in the United Nations. Not to mention UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone, its largest African peacekeeping operation since the 1960's in the Congo. And the peacekeeping, humanitarian and post-conflict peacebuilding work of the UN is only a small fraction of its global activities through its network of specialized agencies like the World Health Organization, the UN

Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

It is not just the global mandate of the UN that has given it unparalleled experience and expertise in addressing global problems. It is its ability to understand the perspectives of the entire UN family of nations, not just those of the richest and most powerful.

But what about one of the favourite targets of the UN bashers - the Security Council? Against all odds it seems the Council has done reasonably well in refashioning the slippery American strategy for using UN inspections as a mere pretext for invasion into a genuine effort to bring Iraq back into compliance with the disarmament provisions of the ceasefire resolution (687)

to which Saddam agreed at the end of the Persian Gulf war. To achieve this result, Council members had to withstand a lengthy disinformation campaign from Bush and his coterie of warmongers about the nature and extent of the threat from Hussein, blackmailing and blandishments tied to post-Saddam Iraqi oil leases, and an unrelenting media bleat that the UN would be irrelevant if it did not do exactly what the USA demanded. In spite of all this, the Security Council did not rubberstamp the USA call to war.

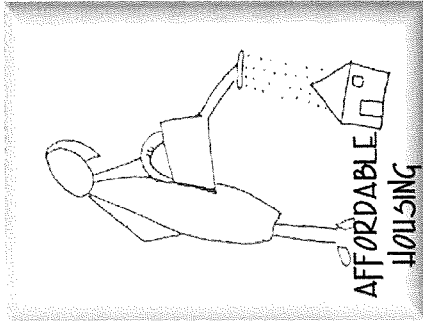
Instead, all fifteen members lined up behind a tough resolution calling for unfettered access for UN weapons inspectors and stating it's the Council's intention to meet again and decide what to do in the event of further Iraqi non-

compliance. The resolution does not authorize the use of force, a fact clearly acknowledged by all Security Council members including the USA in their statements immediately following the vote. This bears repeating. There is no UN sanction for the use of force in this resolution and, thus, in this crucial respect, it reflects the wishes of the vast majority of UN member states and their respective publics who are overwhelmingly opposed to an unprovoked, unjust and totally unnecessary war. However, the USA maintains that it does not actually matter that the UN has refused to authorize member states to use force because the USA can invade Iraq in order to defend itself and, if that isn't enough, according to the USA, any UN member has the right to use force to carry out UN security council resolutions.

UN member states, big or small, have no such rights. **Claiming self-defence in the absence of any credible evidence whatsoever that Iraq intends to attack United States at any time, let alone imminently, is in a word, absurd.** As for enforcement action against Iraq to bring it back into compliance with Security Council resolutions, this can only be authorized by the Security Council after it determines in accordance with the requirements of the UN Charter (1) that the breach in question constitutes a threat to international peace and security and (2) **the threat cannot be effectively managed in any way other than through the use of force.**

What is at stake here is a world where, in place of might makes

right, there is one system of rules, adherence to which enables us to distinguish the good guys from the bad. At the heart of these rules is the UN Charter and the family of institutions it engendered, a system created out of the ashes of two world wars and dedicated to the abandonment of nations of the use of force as a guiding principle of national



The Antigonish Affordable Housing Society is on the Move! *by Katherine Reed*

AWA/AWRC supporters and members may recall that about three years ago, a new housing organization was brought to life as part of a Women's Centre project. The project "Antigonish Women Examine Alternatives to Market Rental Housing" was funded by the Sisters of St. Martha and the Department of Housing and Municipal Relations. Since then the group has been working to build a solid organizational foundation, establishing key relationships, and creating a vision of a new housing development in Antigonish.

This effort was recently catapulted forward by the unanimous decision of the Town of Antigonish to donate a parcel of land to the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS) for the proposed development. The land is located

across Hawthorne St. from Brendan's Fairway and lies below and to the right of Annie's Bluff. It is about three quarters of an acre in size, which is just about right for what AAHS is planning. It is valued at approximately \$38,000.

AAHS hopes to construct between 10 and 12 rental units of varying sizes. They would house a mix of household types ranging from single individuals to families. Most of the units will have either four or two bedrooms. A small number of them will have only one bedroom. We expect that two of the units will be built to accommodate a person who has special needs and may be using a wheelchair.

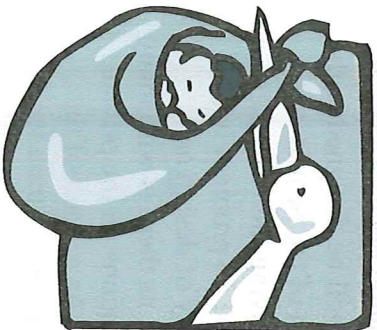
The cost of rent in the units has yet to be determined, but at this point we are certain that rents can be kept below the market average. The average price of a two-bedroom unit as of the fall of 2002 was \$596 per month. We are hoping that an estimated \$50,000 per unit capital cost reduction grant through Housing Services Division of the Department of Community Services will enable us to keep the rent on most of the units far below that amount. The details of how some units will be more heavily supported by the grant than others have yet to be worked out. The funder requires that all rents in the development be kept at or below the average for the local market for a minimum of 10 years. The total cost of the project is roughly estimated at \$1,312,000 – not a small undertaking!

The buildings to be constructed will be of a high quality in terms of design and building materials. We plan to build beautiful, durable, and family-friendly buildings that enhance residents' health and well-being. As such, they will have a competitive advantage in this market where very poor quality housing can

fetch a good price. The entire project will be designed with the input of the people who will be living there, so there should be no problem with suitability of design and location, as there is with many of the options on the private market. As a result of the involvement of future tenants, we expect that there will be a sense of ownership and responsibility on their part, which should work to maintain a high-functioning and very desirable neighbourhood.

The plan AAHS has been developing recognizes that diversity is necessary to make a healthy community, so it will ensure that the tenants in the development will embody a diversity of qualities and characteristics. The tenants will not be responsible for managing the development, as is the case in co-operative housing. Rather, tenants will participate with the Housing Society Board of Directors in setting policy and in overseeing management of the development.

It is our hope that the people who live in this housing will be long-term tenants and through living in affordable housing that truly meets their needs and enhances their lives, they will be able to pursue their life goals unencumbered by all the obstacles that unaffordable and unsuitable housing presents. If anyone would like more information about this initiative, or would like to offer comments and suggestions, please call Katherine at 863-

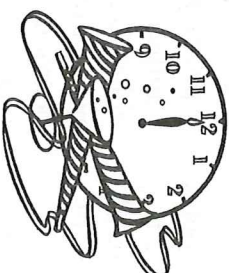


Congratulations
to board member
Nancy Forestell
and partner Peter
McInnis on the
birth of their son,
Kieran Daniel, on
the 18th of
October, 2002!

Enjoy every moment with your precious
new baby!! Best wishes are extended
from board & staff!

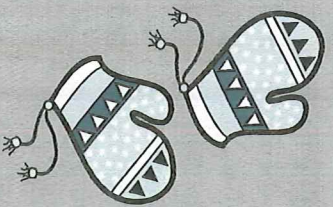
February is Black History Month!

There are exciting activities
being carried out by the African
Heritage Friendship Group of
Guysborough during Black
History Month. Watch for an
article in
the Casket
in
upcoming
weeks.



"Nobody objects to
a woman being a
good writer or
sculptor or
geneticist if at the
same time she
manages to be a
good wife, good
mother, good
looking, good
tempered, well
groomed and
unaggressive." --

Antigonish Women's Association
Suite 204, Kirk Place
219 Main Street
Antigonish NS
B2G 2C1



AWAIRE - WINTER 2003

