
Local Martha to represent Antigonish at national event

Sr. Josephine Keyzer, csm, of Antigonish will be in Ottawa for the Oct. 15 national wrap-up of World March of Women 2000.

A regular participant in the local World March of Women weekly vigils since March 8, Sr. Keyzer is studying in Toronto this year. Participants in the local noon-time vigils recently mailed a banner to Sr. Keyzer for her, along with others, to carry at the World March finale in Ottawa.

Groups from across Canada will march on Parliament Hill, joining their voices in a call to end violence and poverty against women.

The 33 Antigonish World March of Women vigils will culminate at 12 noon Saturday, Oct. 14. Groups that "godmothered" the local vigils will meet at the town hall and march two kilometres through the centre of town. Each group carry a banner, highlighting the number and variety of organizations that came together each week to raise awareness about poverty and violence against women. The march finishes at the St. James United Church hall on Main Street, where lunch will be served.

Participants are invited to join in small group discussions to reflect on the impact of the vigils in Antigonish and consider future actions.

Joanne Tompkins is one of the local coordinator of the World March of Women vigils.

"The march is over, but the struggle against violence and poverty continues," she said. "We need to build on the awareness that has been raised and keep working together."

She said a tremendous network of church people, union workers, waged and unwaged people, students, religious communities and community groups has been developed during the weekly vigils.

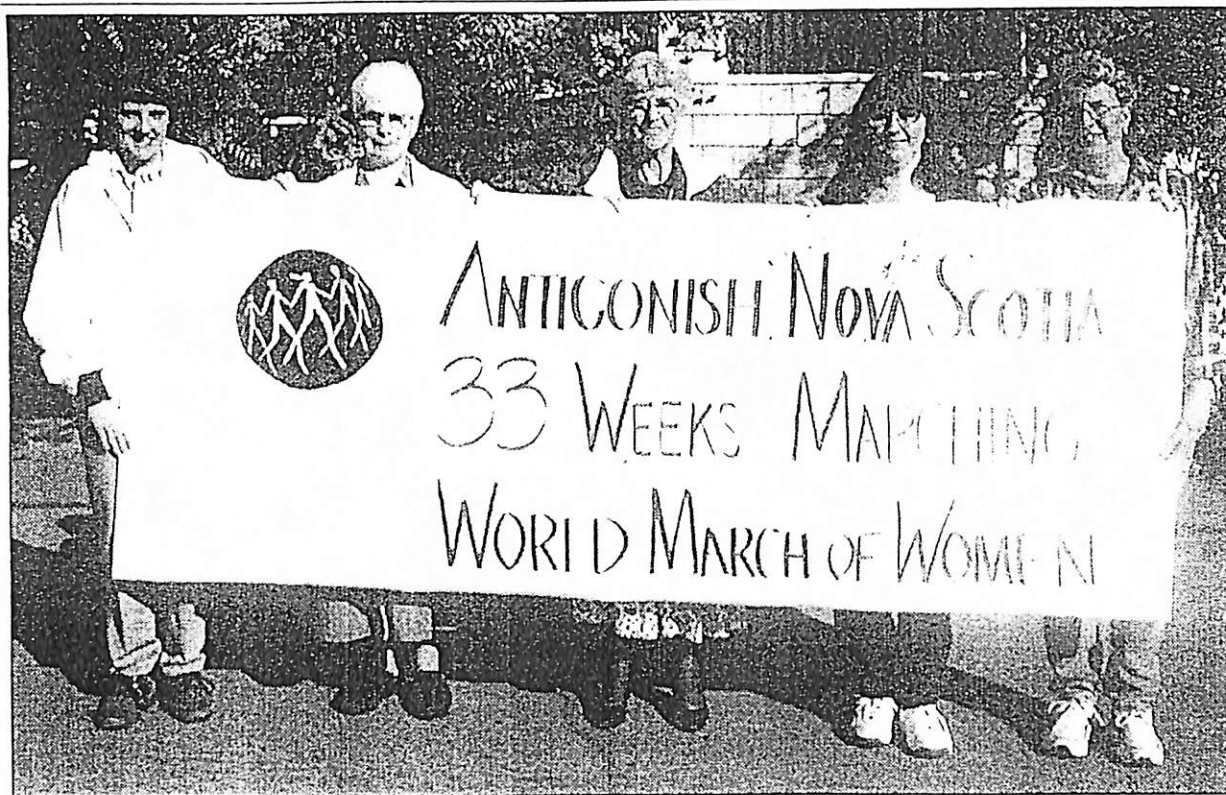
On display at St. James Church during the World March finale will be artwork, poetry, songs and posters developed by participants as they reflect on their experiences of the World March. Activities at St. James are scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m.

Organizers invite participants to bring family members and make the closing a community event.

Other upcoming events addressing women, poverty and violence include a panel discussion at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 17, in the Tin Room at the Coady International Institute. Women from different local, national and international communities will be involved in the discussions.

This is an opportunity for people to reflect on issues of violence and poverty affecting women around the world and the interconnected nature of these issues.

For more information about closing events for the World March of Women contact Katherine Reed of the Antigonish Women Resource Centre at 863-6221, Sr. Brenda Lee Boisvert of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha at 863-3113 or Joanne Tompkins of the Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice at 863-6965.



JOANNE TOMPKINS (left), Sr. Arlene MacKinnon, csm, Sr. Rita MacLellan, csm, Vangie Babin and Carol Kell are among the local participants in the World March of Women 2000 vigils sending a banner to Sr. Josephine Keyzer, csm, to carry in the World March grand finale in Ottawa Oct. 15.