

Thompkins awarded peace cup

Joanne Thompkins was named the 2001 recipient of the Voice of Women Peace Cup.

This award is presented by the Antigonish Women's Association to women who have worked toward a more just and peaceful world. She is a founding member of the Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice and over the past several years she has been at the centre of many economic justice efforts in Antigonish. Her peace and justice promoting activities have reached far and wide.

Thompkins was one of the main coordinators of the weekly Town Hall vigils for the World March of Women 2000. Along with her partner, Ed Miller, and their two children Marion and Carl, she played a critical role in making the Wednesday noon demonstrations come alive with people, music and fun. The weekly vigils promoted anti-poverty activists in Halifax to refer to Antigonish as the "social justice capital of Nova Scotia."

She helped to organize the justice coalition's first International Day for the Eradication of Poverty event, a popular theatre production called Shine the Light of Justice. The piece demonstrated how people can fall through the cracks, becoming trapped in poverty and how government has increasingly abdicated its role in helping citizens cope with difficulties and reach their full potential. In 1999, she coordinated the Teach-in on Poverty by gathering and distributing educational tools for children, teachers and parents to help them reach a new understanding of poverty issues.

Through all of these activities, the



ANTIGONISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION board member Krista DeCoste (left) presents Joanne Thompkins with the Voice of Women Peace Cup. The prize is awarded to a women each year who has made a contribution in striving for peace and justice.

relationships among local individuals and organizations concerned about economic justice have been strength-

ened and people have been made more aware of the causes of poverty and way in which it can be addressed.