

Tamarack

The Newsletter of the Terrace Women's Centre

May 2000

HAPPY SPRING!

Life is always so much nicer when the sun starts rising earlier and disappearing later. Moods are brighter, days are longer and gardens are growing. Things change at the Women's Centre as well. Maybe it's my imagination but the women that walk through the door these days walk with a purpose; they don't seem to have the sense of uncertainty that we saw in women the few months prior. They *know* what they want. They know they are going to separate - what do I need to do; they are getting a job - can I change my resume; they are going back to school - what scholarships are available to me; they are going to start biking - who is around to join me. Spring brings positive thinking. And positive thinking does wonders; it can do anything! I can get the Tamarack out! Now, today. I can totally forget about year end for one day!

The last few months have been busy around here and although it is quiet right now I'm supposing it is probably just the calm before the storm. We've just wrapped up the CAPC project - It Takes a Community, and we're about to start another Girls in Science program. Two students will be hired next week to run what has turned out to be a very popular summer program. Science Day Camps for girls between the ages of 10 and 13 will start in July.

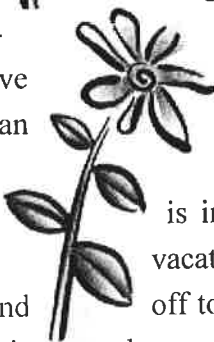
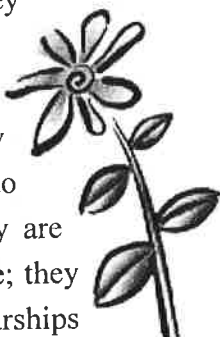
We're also taking applications for the Youth Community Action Program - that's the program where students volunteer for a non-profit society and

earn eight dollars an hour in tuition dollars. This is our third session of that program. Diandra and Colleen were the first set, Brie and Marina the second and application forms are here for the potential third two. If you know a dynamic young woman please mention this opportunity.

On my desk is the start of a grant application for another project; this one is going to aim at giving women real jobs while they are getting training. We haven't done a training program in a long while - our philosophy of training women doesn't always fit with government's. I'm going to give it my full attention as soon as I get year end out of the way.

And get back from my time off, that is. Sarah is in India right now, she's taking her summer vacation early; I'm next with three weeks booked off to do absolutely nothing. (Unless reading in a hammock is considered doing something.) Karla leaves next, she'll be gone for the month of July. Summers around here have been wild the last few years, this one is already shaping up to be similar. And we'll be doing it in a bright 'new' building.

We've just hired a contractor to paint the exterior of the building. Decisions on type/colour of decor around here are always interesting. It was much easier this year when the suggestions for colours for the building had to be one syllable. Come by in a couple weeks and see how nice a few simple syllables can be!



nd of course, my obligatory Internet submission.
own deep I know everyone isn't as interested in the
Internet as I am (but you should be!) but these links
ere submitted as responses to a request on a women's
st on favourite sites so they are bound to be good.

Women'space magazine and the Women's Internet
Campaign
<http://www.womenspace.ca>

Natural Life - Your Guide to Sustainable Healthy Living
<http://www.life.ca>

Bohemian Balcony - site by one woman in New Orleans
who's a passionate gardener on her balcony. She also
does folk art.
http://www.suite101.com/welcome.cfm/bohemian_balcony

Womansline Surfragettes links page - emphasis on
Canadian and Southwestern Ontario links for women
<http://womansline.com/links.html>

Canadian Women's Health Network
<http://www.cwhn.ca>

CROW- a Croation Women's e-zine
<http://www.4net.hr/crow/crowom00.htm>

Femina - - a search engine - because not all search
engines are helpful when you enter "women".
<http://femina.cybergrrl.com>

Safekids - Online street smarts for kids
<http://www.safekids.com>

And, of course, there is my site
<http://member.newsguy.com/~feminist>



DON'T FORGET

Thursday, June 8

A special General Meeting to be held
at the Women's Centre at 12:30 p.m.

It's a very important meeting
regarding the economic stability of
the Women's Centre. All members
are encouraged to attend.

Yes, I would like to become/continue as a member.

Enclosed is my \$10 membership fee for the Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal: _____

Telephone: _____ (h) _____ (w)

Yes, I would like to receive weekly Operating Collective meeting
minutes via email; my email address is _____

Mail or drop off to the Terrace Women's Centre
4542 Park Avenue, Terrace, BC V8G 1V4

ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN CANADA

(facts from the Statistics Canada publication - Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 1999)

2,918 women are in a shelter for battered women
they have 3,197 children with them
2,375 of those kids are under 10

women are 8 times more likely to be victimized by a spouse
than are men

69% of family violence is committed by a spouse,
31% by an ex-spouse

80% of women who use shelters have suffered an injury
at some time in their relationship

April 23 - 29 was Prevention of Violence Against Women Week. To mark this event the Women's Centre and Ksan House Society adopted a blue ribbon campaign. "We've got the blues - women are suffering - their bodies are bruised black and blue, their hearts are down."

2.5 meter long blue plastic 'ribbons' were tied around utility poles in the downtown core and on the highways leading to town. Each ribbon represented one instance of violence against women in Terrace in the last few years. There were over 400 of them. Over 400 cases where women are victims of sexual assault or domestic abuse. That's over 130 cases a year, about 1 case every 2 and a half days. And those are just the cases which have been reported.

It was a visual campaign intended to bring awareness to the issue of violence against women. We received a lot of positive comments, a lot of encouragement to continue but surprisingly enough we also heard a lot of "you are going to take those ribbons down aren't you?" type calls this year. One call I took was a very angry woman whose friends (she told me) had just called the radio station and the newspaper about how terrible the ribbons were and were we going to take them down! I agreed, they were terrible - it was a tragedy that so many of them had to be put up and yes, we were reasonable women and we always cleaned up after ourselves. The backlash continues.

It continues to the City of Terrace Social Planning Commission of which I am a member. So far. The women's section was being discussed for the third consecutive time at the last meeting I attended. I was fortunate enough to be out of town for the previous two meetings where that section had been discussed. I say

fortunate enough because of the bits of the meetings that were related to me by other members. I can also say fortunate by comparing the end product of the meetings to the original submission made by the Women's Centre. It's always amazing to me how people whose average family income is probably in excess of \$50k a year, and who the majority of whom have not experienced what most women have, know what is best for the women in Terrace. For a clear picture of what backlash really is I'd suggest you volunteer to sit on that Commission for a while. It's turned into a game of words. 'But what does that word really mean?'

They wanted a definition for affirmative action. We provided one. *Affirmative actions refers to any measure, beyond the simple termination of a discriminatory practice, which permits the consideration of race, national origin, sex or disability, along with other criteria, and which is adopted to provide opportunities to a class of qualified individuals who have either historically or have actually been denied those opportunities, and to prevent the recurrence of discrimination in the future.*

Affirmative action measures recognize that existing patterns of discrimination, disadvantage and exclusion may require race- or gender-conscious measures to achieve that equality of opportunity. They accepted that definition (after the word 'age' was added).

They wanted a definition for vulnerable. I provided several. I mentioned the woman who, two and a half weeks after being attacked, came to our office - still sporting two black eyes; the woman with three kids whose husband's name is on the front page of the newspaper at least 6 or 8 times a year who wouldn't go to the transition house because of who she was but finally didn't have a choice; the three and four year old children who are receiving sexual assault counselling; the teenager who was raped at a rave; the forty year old woman with a 12 year old son who couldn't leave an abusive relationship because with her ten dollar an hour salary she couldn't afford to; the woman who had left a 25 year marriage after being psychologically abused to the point where her self esteem is so low she can not look anyone in the eye; the 72 year old whose husband of over 50 years had died. They wouldn't accept that definition.

However, I think (hope) they understand a bit more.

But I think we'll be appointing a new representative to the Social Planning Commission soon; the First Nations section comes up next - I don't think I can take much more.

Happy Mother's Day

ow, with full intentions to get this in the mail
efore the day but knowing where the road
at is paved with good intentions often
oes - Happy Mothers Day to mothers and
appy Mothers Day to their daughters
hether you read this before or after the
ate. Their daughters often know better
ow much appreciated mothers are or were
nd it's a special day for daughters as well,
ust knowing how much their mother
means/meant to them on this day and any day.



The Images of Mother

- 4 years of age My Mommy can do anything!
- 3 years of age My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!
- 2 years of age My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.
- 4 years of age Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either.
- 6 years of age Mother? She's hopelely old-fashioned.
- 8 years of age That old woman? She's way out of date!
- 5 years of age Well, she might know a little bit about it.
- 5 years of age Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.
- 5 years of age Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?
- 5 years of age Wish I could talk it over with Mom.

Third Annual Rock Party

When you are all alone in a building and you're doing the Tamarack you get to put whatever you want in it. I'd thought I'd put in a plug for my rock party.

Those who know me know my rock party normally means bring a rock to add to my pond/stream/waterfall and have a good time party. This year the rock party is combined with a Toto and red shoes kind of shindig. Sarah is taking a two year education leave and is heading to Kansas to get her Masters degree. This year will also be a cyal&r, have a good time Sarah kind of thing.

So... consider it an Oz Rock Party. Anything related will get you through the gate. Saturday, July 8 - 7:30ish. Call the Centre for more info.



REAL MOTHERS (of little people)

- ☼ Real Mothers don't eat quiche; they don't have time to make it.
- ☼ Real Mothers know that their kitchen utensils are probably in the sandbox.
- ☼ Real Mothers often have sticky floors, filthy ovens and happy kids.
- ☼ Real Mothers know that dried playdough doesn't come out of pile carpet.
- ☼ Real Mothers know that a child's growth is not measure by height or grade... It is marked by the progression of Mama to Mommy to Mom...

The Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society is a non-profit, unionized, politically progressive community agency incorporated in 1979. Run collectively, it is a feminist grassroots operation that welcomes all women. Our Centre provides a safe environment which supports women, encourages women to explore and reach their full potential and validates individual strengths and experiences. Responding to need, we continually strive to ensure that issues of concern to women in our community and the northwest are addressed. Join us Thursdays at noon for our weekly Operating Collective meetings.