

WEST KOOTENAY
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

N
W
S

AUGUST 2001

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Well, if you haven't heard by now (or seen the job ad in the paper and guessed), I'm leaving. Not just the Women's Centre, not just Nelson, but I'm leaving big time. I've been lured across the ocean to the Emerald Isle. (I'm sounding more poetic already). Right now, my plan is to take a course in Dublin on teaching English as a Second Language - a stamp of approval on my practical experience. Then, once the course is finished, who knows? I may stay in Ireland or go off to other parts of Europe or even beyond. If you want to stay in touch, my new e-mail is euromagsl@yahoo.ca

When I accepted the job last year, I had it in the back of my mind that I'd stay for one year. And in that year, I've really been glad to be back, re-establishing old connections with women who come in to the drop-in, women in the different agencies around town and my cohorts across the province. I've also appreciated working with many new people, especially the younger women. Rumours of a third wave of feminism are definitely true. So, part of me wants to stay and keep fueling the flames of social change. And part of me knows there are plenty of sisters with plenty of fuel, ready to burn. This town is crammed to the rafters with amazing, gutsy, smart women. I'm so glad to have worked with you.

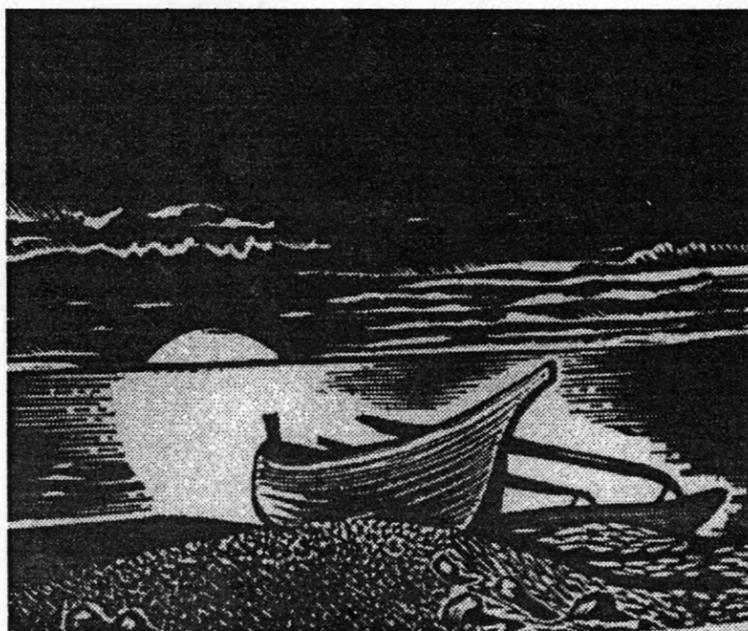
Those of you who have known me for a while know I'll be back. See you then.

Maggie Shirley

Dearest Maggie,

*The Coordinating
Collective, the
members of WKWA
and the staff of the
Women's Centre wish
you a fond farewell.
We will miss your
energy, your smile,
your style, your wit.
May your journey be
wondrous and full.
And may the wind be
always at your back.*

*Much love,
your mountain sisters*



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Well, the times they are a changin'! The Women's Centre's annual closure was the first two weeks in July and traditionally a very slow time of year for drop-in. While it was good that we had the break (and I had my holidays!) we certainly heard about what a large gap we left for women during that time. Our first day open we had 25 women in within a half hour!! It is wonderful that our services are so vital and appreciated. We made arrangements with the Advocacy Centre to receive all of our food donations from Silverking Soya Foods, Endless Harvest, The Only Bakery and Kootenay Sprouts during the closure. This aided in ensuring we were not leaving a gap in at least one of our services while on holidays.

Autumn is just around the corner and with that the next training sessions for the drop-in volunteers will begin. This year will be a 10-week course at two and a half hours each week. Last year's 13 participants were all awarded with Certification of Completion and enjoyed a fabulous retreat at the Ashram to celebrate graduation. Most of those women are still involved with the West Kootenay Women's Association on various levels. We anticipate an enthusiastic response to this year's training and urge women to sign up as soon as possible as there is limited seating. Please contact me at 352-9916 Tuesday to Friday to confirm registration.



Also, a call to women who would like to be a part of the driving force of the West Kootenay Women's Association!! We are meeting with women interested in becoming involved with the new Coordinating Collective. The Collective meets once a month and are our governing board, making all the decisions regarding contracts, policies, and focus of the Association's role within the community. For further information please call me at Yes, you guessed it 352-9916.

Enjoy the last embraces of summer and see you at the Centre, Tuesday to Friday, noon to 4pm for drop-in hours!

Thea Trussler, Volunteer Coordinator
Volunteer Coordination funded by BC Gaming Commission



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP in the WKWA TO SEPTEMBER 2002

- ❖ Enjoy one of the finest feminist libraries
- ❖ Continue to support the longest-running rural women's centre in Canada
- ❖ Keep abreast (ahem) of women's news locally, provincially, nationally & world-wide
- ❖ Take an active part in working to improve women's economic, social and political status

Yes! I want to support the valuable work of the West Kootenay Women's Association

Name: _____

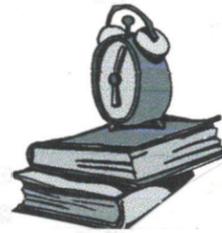
Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- Enclosed please find cheque made payable to the WKWA – sliding scale \$15-\$30 annually.
- I want to do a work-exchange for my membership (4 hours). I will come by or call you to arrange it.
- I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail when that becomes possible.

Please return to: West Kootenay Women's Association – 420 Mill Street, Nelson, V1L 4R9
(All memberships are due at the Annual General Meeting and are valid until the next AGM)

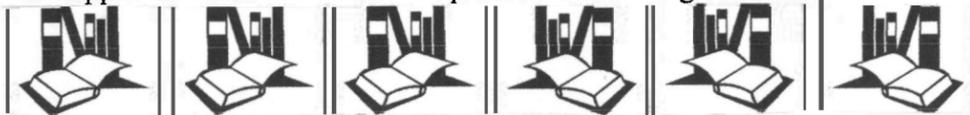
LIBRARY REPORT - ALLISON HACK



THE BOOK SALE IS COMING!!!!

The Women's Centre book-sale is quickly approaching! Now is a good time to thin your bookshelves and donate to the library. Donations can be brought by during the centre's regular hours: Tuesday through Friday, noon - 4PM. The annual book-sale helps us purchase diverse, fantastic new books. It's also a wonderful opportunity to get great deals on books you've been waiting to own.

The sale will happen in October — watch for posters/event listings for details.



**TAKE BACK THE NIGHT ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 7 PM,
DOWNTOWN BAKER STREET, NELSON. WATCH FOR POSTERS AND DETAILED
INFORMATION.**



**Life-force
Mediation
Services**

Providing an alternative option for resolving conflictual family issues in a cost-effective way..

Services Include:

- help in designing / revising parenting plans
- mediation of separation agreements
- individual and group support
- written resources / lending library
- liaison with your lawyer
- court accompaniment

I am based in Nelson & serve the entire West Kootenays.
Evening, weekend & telephone appointments.
Free initial consultation.

Call 250-354-2010 for information
E-mail: bmw@netidea.com
Brenda Woolner BA, BSW



Whether you need:
a place
to put your feet up
a chance to talk
help with a problem
or just some
information

the Women's Centre

Drop-in
Tuesday to Friday
Noon to 4PM

420 Mill Street
Nelson, B.C.
V1L 4R9

(250) 352-9916
Fax: (250) 352-7100
e-mail: wkwomyn@netidea.com

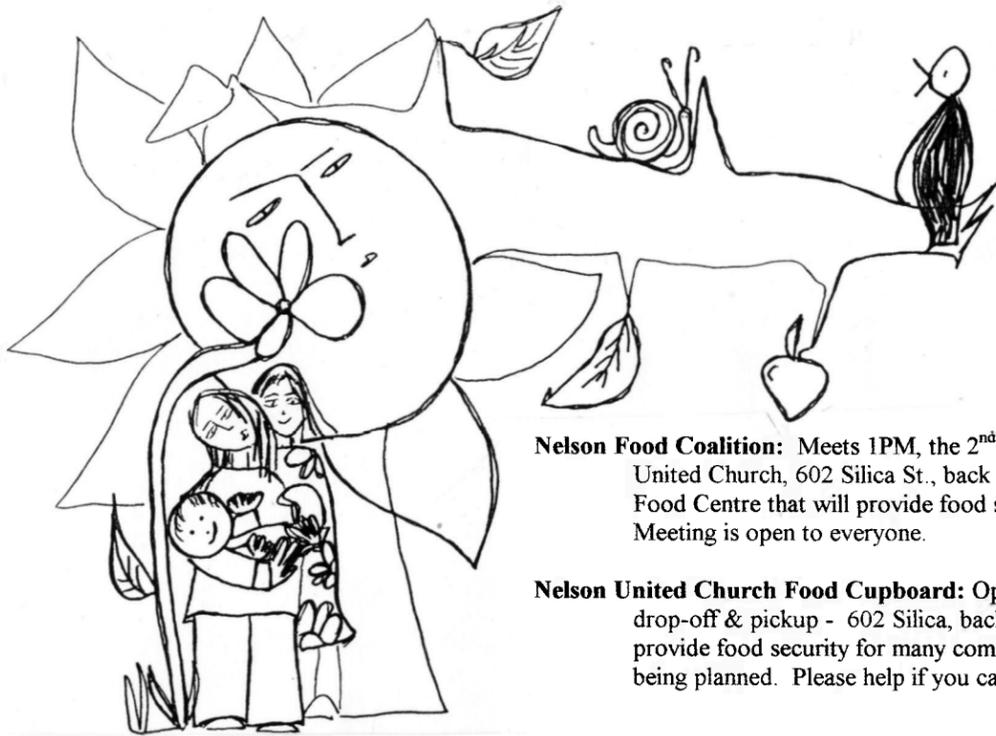
The Women's Centre
is in
dire need
of a



yep. a vacuum cleaner

Can you help us?
Please let us know if you have
a vacuum you'd love to give to
us. We will be ever so grateful.
We will send you a thank you
card. Maybe we'll bake you a
cake —

352-9916
(password: suck)



EVENTS, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Nelson Food Coalition: Meets 1PM, the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Nelson United Church, 602 Silica St., back door. This group is working to create a Food Centre that will provide food security in a respectful, consistent manner. Meeting is open to everyone.

Nelson United Church Food Cupboard: Open Monday to Friday, 9AM to noon for drop-off & pickup - 602 Silica, back door. The Food Cupboard is helping to provide food security for many community members while the Food Centre is being planned. Please help if you can by donating nonperishable food items.

Women's Groups (3 parts): led by Rose Stapenhurst, employment counselor trained as a course and workshop leader at Findhorn in Northern Scotland. All proceeds to the Nelson Women's Centre. Refreshments provided. Groups meet at the Women's Centre. Please call Rose at 354-3881 for more information or to register.

Group 1: *SHARING AROUND WOMEN & MIDLIFE:* for women aged 40-45. Group delves into physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and career changes. Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2001, 9:30-11:30AM. Fee: \$3.00-7.00 (pay what you can).

Group 2: *WOMEN'S VISIONING DAY:* a mini retreat to find out what you truly desire. Open to women of any age. Discussion, visualization, sharing and creating individual collages. Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2001, 8:30-11:45AM. \$5-10 (pay what you can).

Group 3: *WOMEN & MIDLIFE CAREER CHANGES:* Clarify and define your true life purpose. Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2001, 8:30-11:45AM. Free.

Carolyn Myss Workshops facilitated by Rose Stapenhurst: Eight week course starting Friday October 12th, 9:30-11:30AM, Nelson Women's Centre. Cost is \$16-40 for the entire program (sliding scale). All proceeds go to the Women's Centre. Limited to 12 participants so register early. Rose will use Carolyn's videos on Energy Anatomy to help us understand the bodies' energy systems. Call Rose to register at 352-2139.

Women's Economic Equality Project: Focus group on homelessness. Tuesday, August 21, 1-2PM, at the Women's Centre. Please join us in determining the gaps and needs in Nelson's services to homeless or near homeless women (that includes you and me). This information will be brought to the SCPI (Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative) Steering Committee to further a community plan around solving some of the housing security problems in Nelson.



Ms. Elleneous



Many thanks to K.Linda Kivi and crew for the marvelous, most fantastic (and may I add fabulous looking) job on the leaky water situation at the Women's Centre. Handled with finesse and fortitude.

Lilliawna is compiling stories of women's rites of passage so we may share our experiences with our young sisters. If you would like to share your story please answer the following questions and send them on to Lilliawna by email to livi@lovla.com or by regular post to S. Smith, General Delivery, Nelson, BC V1L 5P7. 1. *What does sisterhood mean to you?* 2. *What do you do to nourish or love yourself (mind, body, soul)?* 3. *What is it about being a woman you love?* 4. *What was your first moon, time like/ did you have a rite of passage?* 5. *How would you have liked your first experience to be?*

More fruit than you could possibly use? Looking for fruit trees you are welcome to harvest? Call Rich or Aaron at EARTH MATTERS about the Fruit Tree Mapping Project, 352-2140.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EQUALITY PROJECT

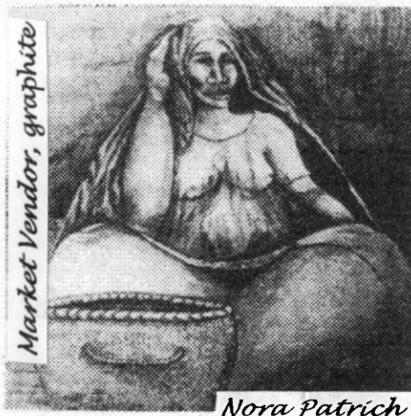
Hi. My name is Penny Ruvinsky. I've been hired as the anti-poverty action coordinator for the WKWA. My background is varied and includes arts administration, music, weaving, midwifery, newspaper editing and production, and of course, poverty. I raised two sons as a single parent. I feel strongly that poverty is the result of the misdistribution of wealth and a classist economic system. I am committed to social change and justice.

Since early June I've been talking to women, reading, developing grant applications, attending community meetings and getting a basic handle on what this project could and should be doing. In September I'll be asking some of you to sit on the project Advisory Committee to develop a set of criteria to monitor and evaluate this initiative.

This is a 3 year project. The 1st year is devoted to research and gathering information about women's poverty and oppression in the Nelson area. I am in the process of developing research tactics to get this done. If you have any innovative and creative ways to reach people, please let me know.

I've joined the steering committee of Partnership Initiative) a federally alleviate homelessness in selected eligible to receive about \$375,000 to to help find solutions to homelessness drawing up a plan. I'll keep you more, or offer input, drop by for a we'll talk.

I'm also working with the Nelson centre that will provide food security Coalition meets at 1PM the second Nelson United Church. Everyone is



SCPI (Supporting Communities funded program designed to help cities across the country. Nelson is put towards a community initiative in the area. We're in the process of informed. If you'd like to know visit at the Women's Centre and

Food Coalition in creating a food in a respectful, efficient way. The Wednesday of every month at the welcome to attend.

Over the next year there will be several focus groups to help direct the work I'm doing. I'll keep you posted through the newsletter and the bulletin boards at the house.

I believe there are two crucial elements in poverty work. The first, **alleviation**, makes day-to-day life easier by ensuring that we all have access to food, shelter and clothing. The second priority, the **elimination** of poverty, requires sustainable effort for social change. This change encompasses an understanding of the global and local causes of poverty along with individual and community action towards economic equality.

If you have any information you'd like to share with me about poverty – causes, solutions, survival tactics – please find me at the Women's Centre. I'm usually at my desk Wednesday to Friday, 10AM to 4PM. I'm looking forward to working with you.

See you soon, *Penny*

The Women's Economic Equality Project is funded by Status of Women Canada.



West Kootenay Women's Association News
Published by Nelson & District Women's Centre
420 Mill St. Nelson, B.C. V1L 4R9
Tel: 250-352-9916 Fax: 250-352-7100 E-mail: wkwomyn@netidea.com (Put "newsletter" in subject line)
Editorial Collective: Allison Hack, Penny Ruvinsky
Contributors: Maggie Shirley, Thea Trussler, Allison Hack, Ashala Yardley, Penny Ruvinsky
Graphics/Layout: P. Ruvinsky

We need your help, contributions, events, art, and "Letters to the Editor"!!
WKWA News is published 7 times per year. Call us for submission deadlines. JOIN US!

Operational Funding provided in part by the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2000-2001

by Ashala Yardley, Coordinating Collective (CC) co-chair

This has been an exciting, eventful year for WKWA. We had five new CC members: Michelle Deines, Jessie Manley, Ashala Yardley, Rose Stapenhurst, & Caroline Shooner. Returning members included Katya Hayes, Nora Johnson, & Marnie Hehr. This dynamic team was complete with our two awesome superwomen staff: Maggie Shirley, administrative coordinator, & Thea Trussler, volunteer coordinator.

We held our annual *Take Back the Night* march & celebration at Lakeside Park in September 2000. The *Free Store* got up & running full tilt & drop-ins & volunteers increased steadily. The *International Women's March Against Poverty & Violence* took place in October, & in November, *volunteer training* began with over a dozen enthusiastic recruits. In December, we organized the *Montreal Memorial Sharing Circle & Day of Action*. A *CC strategic planning retreat* gleaned lots of vision & insight & we closed the year down with a *member appreciation & winter holiday party*. The New year saw some changes on the CC as Katya, Nora, Michelle, & Jessie one by one left to answer life's calls to motherhood, new careers, new partners & other exciting journeys. We were sad to see them go but excited to see the torch passed on to new members Jose Corrigan, Anne Russell & Rene Hope. In February, the dedication & enthusiasm of volunteers & CC members was honored with an all day *retreat at the Yasodara Ashram* in Kootenay Bay with workshops, sharing circles, song & dance. In March we celebrated *International Women's Day* with an evening of song, dance, literature & performance. We also celebrated womyn's art in the Kootenays with the *Luna Chicks Gallery Show*. With all this celebration & creative juice, the money was bound to start flowing ... & so it did! By April, we received funds from the *BC Gaming Commission* enabling us to continue Thea's contract. Yeah! As we move into summer we've recently had an opportunity to drink in women's beauty with "*Juice*" an all women's dance with female DJ's & performers... & drop- in numbers have hit record highs for this season.

Ruth Beck, Employment Equity Coordinator, did an excellent job of wrapping up the *EE project* & passing on responsibility for employment equity to the appropriate institutions. With an extensive 3-year proposal, we applied for a grant from the Status of Women Canada for an *Economic Equality & Anti-Poverty Project*. Through creative budget cuts we were able to manifest a viable project plan &, in May, hired Penny Ruvinsky as the Economic Equality project coordinator.

The year has been dynamic & successful. As we near the date of our AGM on September 19, 2001, I encourage all of you to get involved with your women's centre & association - attend the AGM, renew your membership, visit the women's centre, volunteer your energy for drop-in or the committee of your choice (many of which desperately need your help). -The West Kootenay Women's Association & the Nelson & District Women's Centre are what you make them. Let's stand united & have fun in the year to come!!



WKWA invites you to join us at our

Annual General Meeting

7-9PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2001
BROADER HORIZONS, 905 GORDON ROAD, NELSON



GUEST SPEAKER: LAURA CARTER, POLICY ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE, GARMENT & LEATHER WORKERS UNION.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. PLEASE CALL IF YOU NEED A RIDE 352-9916