



Spring Greetings!

Welcome to our new Volunteer Coordinator Beth Seed! Beth Has been working with WKWA since February of this year and has brought great new energy to the Centre! It is a joy to have you on board!

Special thanks to Jaime Harlacher and Wendy Richards, our long time Drop-in Volunteers, who have held loving safe, space for women at the Centre since 2007! You have kept our Centre safe and welcoming for all who use our Centre. and are loved by all!!

Program News

- * Nelson and District Women's Centre Drop - In: Tues and Wednesdays 12 to 4pm (Referrals, support, free food and clothes store, library, computer services, training, volunteer opportunities, companionship, children welcome, safe space for women.)
 - *** Stats: 2,500 to 3,000 Women and Children use our facilities per year
- Strategic Planning-The WKWA coordinating collective has just completed a weekend of planning with the support of Val Mayes out in Proctor at Gitta and Anita's place. This was a wonderful and productive time.
- Bag Project—Our recycled and reclaimed textile sewing project is going strong selling bags in over 10 stores in Nelson as well as at the Kootenay Art Gallery. We have finished writing the business and marketing plan with the funding from Enterprising Non Profits thanks to Lyn Cayo, our cooperative and business consultant. Lyn worked with the women in this project to develop the needed awareness and skills for looking at the steps for creating a cooperative. We have moved up to the second floor which allows women to work and sew Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12 to 4pm each day. Join us!!!!
- Free Store— Clean up and renovation completed in January of this year!! Thanks to the Nelson and District Credit Union, our basement has been beautifully renovated! We have moved the Free Clothing Store into this space and moved the Bag project upstairs. Thanks to all of the workers and volunteers who made this possible.
- Library Social— Saturday, May 9th. Join us for live Music and readings by local women musicians and writers. Refreshments and snacks, good company and fundraising for the WKWA library!! Thanks to our head Librarian Sandra Hartline!!!

West Kootenay Women's Association News-April 2009

- *Garden Time!* Based on the success of our garden last year, we are converting our lawn area into a garden space for this year's garden. Thanks to the Katimivik volunteers who started this process in the fall and the new group which will finish turning the earth over in mid May. Look for a garden workshop and planting time toward the end of May!! Gardeners, join us!
- *Katimivik Volunteers*—Welcome to our new volunteer Annie and thanks to the entire group for their work in turning over our garden!
- *Images, Feminist Newspaper Digitalization Project*—Marcia Braundy has just completed this project covering the years from 1972 to 1993. Congratulations Marcia!! The project was funded by BC Heritage 150. If you are interested in buying a CD of the years of Images, contact WKWA for information.

Events since the AGM in September:

- Volunteer Training: 10 weeks each, Fall of 2008 and Spring 2009
- October: 36th Anniversary Party and review of the 36 years of the Nelson & District Women's Centre. We highlighted the history of the Women's Centre with a panel discussion of past staff and CC members, we focused on the *Honouring of our Elders*, including the Voice of Women BC who gifted us \$20,000, The Company of Older Women, Raging Grannies, Images Ad Hoc Singers and the women who worked on the Images newspaper.
- Take Back the Night: Organized by Anna Paladin, Cas Page, Pam Ponic, Shannon Lanaway, and others. This was an interesting year as women initiated a discussion on gender equity and the inclusion of men in this event. We are looking to expand this discussion to include members of WKWA.
- Converting lawn to garden space and harvesting garden
- December 6th—Commemoration of the Montreal Massacre with a focus of prevention of Violence Against Women.
- Solstice/Holiday Party
- Volunteer Appreciation Party
- Renovated the Basement—moved the free store down stairs, moved the sewing project upstairs, and re-opened the children's space.
- IWD— We had two events this year,
- 1) Consciousness raising movie night at the Library in conjunction with Café Feminino, Amnesty International and Pura Vida. This was organized by Shannon Lanaway.
- 2) Community Event at the Touchstones Museum with a kick off of the IMAGES Feminist Newspaper Digitalization Project, funded by BC Heritage 150 and produced by Marcia Braundy. For a copy of the CD, contact WKWA to reach Marcia.
- Five Feminist Minutes: This event was great fun with wonderful talent this year as usual. We had several younger women performing from 12 yrs old to 16 yrs old along with the rest of the women of the community.
- New Staff hired—Welcome Beth Seed!!

Thanks to everyone for your participation and work to keep us going!!!!

West Kootenay Women's Association News-April 2008 Association

Special Thanks

- Curves Giving Tree-During the Holidays Curves hosted a giving tree which women of the community supported the Women's Centre with donations of food, toiletries, gift certificates, garden tools, a sewing machine, money, and gifts for the women at the Centre!! Thank you women at curves!!!
- Scarlet Roses Burlesque—dancers and Burlesque Troup which donated a % of their proceeds to us. There has been feedback requesting a broader discussion on burlesque and how it fits into a Feminist ideology. If you are interested please call!
- *Sugar Shack Fundraiser:* April 25th, the Sugar Shack and Jody commonly known as Miss Quincy, organized and hosted an incredible evening of singers who donated their time and money to the Women's Centre. Pauline Lamb, Cheryl Hodges, Kate Reed and Pascal Goodrich-Black and band, all thrilled the audience in this intimate setting with their soulful and exciting music and songs. Thank you.
- Jewelry Sale: WKWA was gifted beautiful jewelry with silver and semi-precious stones from a male supporter who sells jewelry from India. Many thanks to the man who has gifted us this jewelry and to Curves who sold this jewelry for us for almost 4 months.

We are looking to raise funding for maintaining the ongoing operations of WKWA as well as maintaining our house which includes the following: new stucco siding, new roof, digging a trench along the side of the house to stop the basement from leaking next winter, new gutter and heat wire, and garage renovation.

Heartfelt Thanks to All of our Supporters!!

To list a few....BCGC, Voice of Women BC, BCGEU, Enterprising Non Profits, Columbia Basin Trust, Osprey Community Foundation, Nelson & District Credit Union, BC 150 Legacy Fund, Canadian Federation of University Women, Postal Union, United Church Women's Association, Nelson and District Credit Union, Scarlet Rose Burlesque, Miss Quincy of the Sugar Shack, Pauline Lamb, Cheryl Hodge, Kate Reed, Pascal Goodrich-Black and band, Tate Photography, Silver King, Kootenay Coop Country Cooperative, Kootenay Café & Bakery Cooperative, Nelson Food Cupboard, WIN, Our Daily Bread, Eddy's Music, Share, Renaissance Hair Co., Mountain Waters, Barbara Brown, Karen Logan, Val Amies, local businesses, individuals and all of the volunteers who help to keep us alive and thriving! Special thanks to the women who work to keep the Drop In a welcoming and helpful place to be, the free store organized and women of the Recycled and Reclaimed Bag Project! If I have forgotten anyone, please call me!

A very special thanks to the coordinating collective, a group of dedicated, fun loving women who have worked to keep this organization open and working.

Kathleen Luchtan
WKWA Coordinator

Please send checks to
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