

Women's Centre benefit one of many activities

The benefit for the Nelson Women's Centre held June 24 at the Vallican Whole received support from many women in the area. Over \$450 was earned, which will supplement other funding of the centre.

The Nelson Women's Centre is a service open to all women. Its functions are diverse and include a drop-in centre, (a place to meet other women, to sit with your child and or whatever), a bulletin board for housing, travel, and child care and community events of interest to women.

Information and referrals are offered in areas of health care, women and the law, child birth classes, and there is a women's lending library.

A women's advocate (a person who acts on behalf of another) is working hard this summer to identify recurrent problem areas in our community. A number of problems have been dealt with directly and confidentially.

On a more general scale, a survey will be distributed to collect information on the needs and concerns of women in the area. Participants will be anonymous. The survey will be in your mailbox in the next few weeks, self-addressed to the Women's Centre.

At present the women's advocate is involved in liaison work between the women's centre and the other services in Nelson. With the aid of the city police department the recently produced film *This Film is About Rape* has been booked for showing on August 11, all interested services, groups, and individuals are invited to attend.

Work is also underway on the Women's Herstory Project, an account of the past of women in our area. The contributions of women to society in history texts and literature in general have been greatly understated.

The lack of detailed studies about women and their work has left a gap in the total perspective of our of our history. Through diaries, archives, old photos, and word of mouth, information is being compiled about the history of women women in the West Kootenay.

If you, or anyone knows or can contribute information in the way of names, records, letters or personal memories of women in the Kootenays, please write or call the Nelson Women's Centre. The committee on women's history of the Canadian Historical Association will receive information on all results.

While the total scope of both the herstory and advocacy program are endless, ground work in basic organization will be the goal of the summer workers. Independent aspects of each can then be dealt with as time and funding allow.

A women's section has been added to the Nelson Public Library has just opened. These books are available through a Koerner Foundation grant, obtained by the Nelson Women's Centre. Ask the librarian about the new books.

The third Friday night social was held on July 14. The first social took on a tea-time aura with many women new and old attending.

The second social was a film night and the third centered on music. All women are welcome. The next social will take place July 28 at 7:30 p.m. Watch for an announcement. There will also be a Women's Centre general meeting July 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the centre.

The Nelson Women's Centre is located at 307 Vernon Street (boardwalk on left side on the Jam Factory). For further information concerning any of the above please call 352-9916.