

Report on General Membership Meeting Tuesday December 8

Decisions:

1. A student placement from the Laurentian School of Social Work will be working at the Centre three days a week beginning January 6
 2. Soup's On will begin again Friday January 8 at noon.
 3. We will have a chili and cornbread lunch on Sunday January 17 at 1:00pm at the Centre to kick off our 1992 membership drive. The lunch will cost \$2.50 per person and will be for families.
 4. Three afternoons in January will be given over to volunteer training. Marylou is putting together a volunteer kit. Phone her with suggestions.
 5. We endorsed the Peace is Everybody's Business campaign.
 6. We discussed the Sudbury Centennial logo and will write more letters.
 7. Meetings in January are on the 12th and the 26th.
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General Membership Meetings

1. Tuesday January 12 at 7:30 pm. Items on the agenda include: a look at the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care brief - do we want to endorse it? deciding on a display for International Women's Day. Sudbury centennial logo - we've written letters what do we do next? deciding on a policy for other community groups using the Centre

2. Tuesday January 26 at 7:30 pm - Gilles Lapalme of the Human Rights Commission is this month's guest speaker. He'll be telling us how the Commission works specifically in cases of sexual harassment.

Committee Meetings

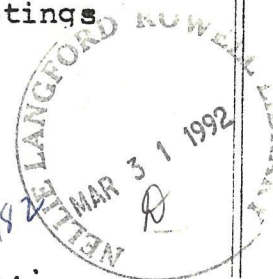
All committees are being revived in January. The first meetings are as follows:

Resource Committee	Thursday January 14 at 7:30
Workshop Committee	Monday January 17 at noon
Political Action	Monday January 18 at 7:30
Membership	Tuesday January 19 at noon
Fundraising	Tuesday January 26 at noon



January newsletter brought to you by:
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What is in a name?

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What indeed? the days since October 19th 1981 have shown me that there are a lot of undiscovered emotions and legal technicalities tied to a name - my name to be specific. October 19th I went to my bank to change the name on my accounts from my married name to my maiden name. It was the first of many official notifications including my driver's licence, car ownership, OHIP, library card etc. No problem anywhere apart from a few questions of clarification and the odd raised eyebrow. After all I am not the first woman to have done this. My predecessors have made the way easier. Those accustomed to addressing me by my married name are still finding it difficult to change gears. Sue Byron who has been using her maiden name for three years advised me to politely persist and gently correct. That is what I am doing.

Some days I wonder why I am doing this. Then I remember my previous two months of mulling over the proposed change. Whenever I sided with the status quo (keeping the married name) resentment would build. It is my family name and I want it back. I have always felt the loss. Eight years ago when I was married I was not strong enough - new relationship, new community, younger woman. Yet I have always believed that a woman's marital status is between her and her man - not for display on business envelopes. I loathe the notion that a woman past 21 is somehow not authentic unless she wears a man's name. So I politely persisted and gently corrected myself too until I got stronger.

Stronger I needed to be because the next time I made an official notification I had my credit cancelled. For six years I had paid Sears their balance owed on receipt of my statement. My husband had never signed the credit application. The card had my first name on it. I operated on the mistaken impression that the credit rating that went with it was mine. Not so. In Ontario a husband is financially responsible for credit pledge by his wife with or without his signature. Although I was gainfully employed at the time the card was issued, my employment now is in the albeit noble but grossly underpaid (unpaid!) field of full-time mothering. Sears could hardly garnish those wages. Moreover, Sears was doubtful of their ability to garnish a husband whose name I do not carry. What if he said he didn't know me? Although I could understand their point of view somewhat, I maintained my previous record of payment should count. After all I had been without pay for five years and had not defaulted. The name changed but the person and her payment habits remain the same. Their idea of a compromise was to issue me a card in my own name if my husband co-signed. This obviously is an untenable offer. It implied financial irresponsibility. The other option was to contact them after I left my kids and went back to work. Now obtaining credit to me is just not that important. My kids do have priority. I do not recount this story to vilify Sears. Visa and Eaton's however issued new cards without hassle and I'm not having to fork out cash when the oil delivery truck comes to the door. I recount it to illustrate one of the senseless roadblocks that stand in the way of a woman wishing to exercise her rights. I did eventually get a card from Sears. It took three trips and discussion with the credit manager. It carries a lowered credit ceiling based on some part-time paid employment I have a few hours a month. Part of me thanks the credit manager for stretching to accommodate me and for even listening to my case, and the other part of me is angry that any of this should have been necessary.

There are several things I suggest to make regaining or using one's own name easier:

1) Never assume your husband's name in the first place
At the time of your marriage you have four options legally

- a) Keep your name
- b) Use his name.
- c) Hyphenate Yours-his
- d) Hyphenate His-yours

Undoubtedly reverting is awkward (but worth it). Here is a distinction I find tricky to understand. It is not illegal to revert to your maiden name but once assumed the married name is the "legal" one. I gather what this means is that it is legal for me to use my maiden name but I cannot require anyone who refuses to acknowledge it to do so - and there have been people like that.

2) Contact the credit bureau and advise them of the change.
Ask the credit bureau to separate your credit file from your husband's. They will cross-reference the names so that previous records will be part of your new file. When your creditors call the bureau to question who you are, there will be a record of the "new you." They won't be so nervous then. It is wise for any woman to do this regardless of what name she uses.

3) Be firm with your detractors.
You have a right to your own name. It helps to be polite when insisting. At first I decided to answer to both names. This doesn't work. People won't make the effort unless you ask them to. They can't if they don't know. When phoning someone I have previously known I introduce myself by my maiden name first. It seems to get through better that way.

4) Seek out supportive friends.
I needed encouragement. The more of us to use our own names the easier it will become. We are not unique. Neither are we the ordinary. Some people are threatened by change and they express their fear with hostility. I found this emotionally exhausting initially.

5) Maintain a sense of humour
One friend remarked, "Nobody is going to say anything nasty to you. They will be feeling too sorry that your husband has left."

6) Realize that this need not cost you a cent
except for postage stamps. Even changing the car ownership was free as it was not a transfer to another person. If you own property in your married name you do not have to change the deed. You are after all the same person. Kathleen Howes, Women's Centre member and local lawyer, advised me that at the time of the sale the purchaser might require an affidavit to declare that I am one and the same person. Transfer of clear title would then be unquestionable. I have contacted the land registry office. They have a form for name change and want it accompanied by an affidavit. They suggested a lawyer draw it up. This may be my one and only cost.

With two months of hind-sight and having worked through all of the emotions I heave a sigh of relief and say "It feels like coming home. Hope to see you there."

Carolyn Campbell

Resource Material

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Between December 1 and December 18 we received the following material:

1. A Woman's Calendar December 1981 from A Woman's Place in Halifax
2. Poor Peoples Groups: A Report of the National Council of Welfare Seminar on Self-Help Problem Solving by Low-Income Communities.
3. Beyond Service And Beyond Jobs: People's Need to Grow National Council of Welfare Ottawa.
4. Organizing for Social Action: Three Canadian Experiences National Council of Welfare Ottawa.
5. Annual Report 1980-1981. The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women
6. Measuring Poverty: 1981 Poverty Lines National Council of Welfare.
7. Elizabeth Fry Society of Sudbury newsletter for November 1981
8. Northern Woman Journal Vol 7 No 1
9. Pension Reform With Women in Mind Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women 1981 113 pp
10. Bird Florence. "Solidarity for Women: Persisting Inequality and New Threats Must be Met by Women Working Together" (photocopied article)
11. "Words that make Women Disappear" reprint by Ontario Status of Women Council
12. Notes from workshop on women and microtechnology. by Heather Menzies from: Women's Programme Secretary of State.
13. Status Vol 4 No 3 October 1981. (publication)
14. Annual Report 1980/81 Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens.
15. Ontario Committee on the Status of Women publications list
16. Daycare: Deadline 1990. Brief to the Government of the Province of Ontario on the Future of Daycare Service in Ontario by the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare.
17. Voices: a survival manual for wimmin issue 6
18. Status of Women News Fall 1981
19. NAC Memo November 1981.
20. This Christmas... Boycott Irwin Toys. comic book USWA District 6.
21. Fact Sheet 3 Wife Battering in Canada Hidden Victims Silent Screams... CACSW
22. Fact Sheet 4 Rape and Sexual Assault CACSW

La documentation

Nous avons reçu la documentation suivante durant le mois du decembre.

1. le rapport annuel 1980-1981 Le Conseil consultatif canadien de la situation de la femme
2. mesures de la pauvreté: les seuils de la pauvreté de 1981 Conseil national du bien-être social
3. groupes d'animation sociale: rapport du colloque du conseil national du bien-être social sur le groupe d'entraide comme moyen de résoudre les problèmes des défavorisés.
4. les petits salaires: comment répondre à leurs besoins profil statistique préparé par le conseil national du bien-être social
5. pour améliorer le sort des enfants rapport du conseil national du bien-être social sur le système d'aide à l'enfance au Canada
6. la femme et la pauvreté rapport du conseil national du bien-être social
7. les petits salaires profil statistique préparé par le conseil national du bien-être social
8. l'emploi et la pauvreté rapport du conseil national du bien-être social sur les petits salaires au Canada
9. le régime caché d'assistance sociale rapport du conseil national du bien-être social sur le régime canadien d'impôt sur le revenu des particuliers
10. seul dans un monde à deux rapport du conseil national du bien-être social sur les familles monoparentales du Canada
11. organisation d'une action sociale: trois expériences canadiennes rapport préparé pour le conseil national du bien-être social par ceux qui les vécurent
12. les enfants pauvres. rapport du conseil national du bien-être social
13. au delà des services et du travail: l'épanouissement humain rapport du conseil national du bien-être social
14. les pauvres et la consommation. rapport du conseil national du bien-être social sur la situation du consommateur à faible revenu face au marché canadien
15. la presse et la pauvreté: un rapport du conseil national du bien-être social sur la façon dont les journaux canadiens présentent la pauvreté
16. un enfant une chance: un rapport sur la nutrition par le conseil national du bien-être social
17. rapport annuel 1980/81 Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur l'âge d'or.
18. La revue statut de la femme Automne 1981

Nickel Centre Residence For Girls

The following article was written by one of the residents of the Nickel Centre Residence for Girls.

Nickel Centre Residence for Girls is designed to accomodate 2 female adolescents between the ages of 13 and 16 years. The program provides opportunities for those children who primarily require training in living skills and continued academic education.

The residence should not be deemed a secured facility. The management of the residence has determined that no discrimination shall be exercised on the basis of race religion physical or mental handicap to a manageable limit.

One way of helping troubled girls is based on the knowledge that the human organism tends to heal itself if given the right conditions. This drive toward health is especially strong in the young thus enabling us to deal with many of the social emotional and learning difficulties of children and adolescents by concentrating on the provision of a health and growth promoting life situation designed for the individual.

The program is deemed flexible and attempts to meet the individual needs of the adolescent. The group living experience will provide the opportunity to experience sharing caring and developing respect for others. This is seen as necessary as the adolescent approaches responsibility and independence. The programme is based on the individual assessment and gradual integration. The goal of community involvement in the case of the Nickel Centre Residence for Girls is two fold.

One to allow the girls to experience community involvement from a recreational point of view. That is to take part in sports girl guides and extra curricular activities at school

The second is to experience the rewards of being a good citizen without prejudice or stigma. With this in mind the residence program includes the development of a volunteer program involving senior citizens.

The Women s Organization of Garson has already indicated support for craft programs such as teas and teen projects.

It is not the goal of the residence to appear different in the community but to gain support by participation.

International Women's Day March 6th 1982. 12-5pm

International Women's Day is rolling round again and this year s promises to be the best yet. The format will be the same as in previous years with displays speeches and artists however this year we will be adding more visual arts that will make the day much more festive

Our theme this year is "Women Rising in the 80 s" so our speeches will address new and/or growing concerns of the Women s Movement such topics as "Women in Micro-chip technology" "Women into Non-Traditional Jobs" and "Women and Pensions"

We are also planning a film night a few days before the event featuring a couple of excellent women s movies. This day is aimed at "kickingoff" the celebration.

This years coalition so far is represented by Women Helping Women Women in Trades Local 6500 Women s Committee the Rape Crisis Centre the Sudbury Women s Centre Ploughshares as well as some individuals. So far we have met twice. Our next meeting is on Monday January 11 7:30 pm at the Women's Centre. We could use more help. If you can attend our meetings your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have any brilliant ideas or suggestions call me (Linda) at 560-5479.

Donations ... we need donations

It would be nice to start keeping the Centre open one night a week for a social/drop in evening especially for those members who work during the day. But, we need decks of cards (bridge or euchre tournaments anyone?) board games etc. Did you get two chess sets for Christmas? Bring one in!

The Writer's Workshop is for anyone interested in writing, those who have been published and those who wish to be.

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at the Sudbury Women's Centre 7.30 p.m.

Each month will be devoted to a particular aspect of writing i.e. December was poetry month with guest speaker Robert Zenik published poet. January is non-fiction articles month

The first hour of the meeting is devoted to that month's topic. with guest speakers when possible - then we break for coffee and open discussion when members can share any aspect of writing experience.

For more information call Sandra Maitland at 855-4638 after 6 p.m. or Helen Cameron at 897-4031.

Women in Trades

The next membership meeting of Women in Trades is Monday January 18 at 7:30 pm at the Steel Hall. Guest speaker is Richard Maki on the subject of apprenticeship programs.

Women Helping Women

Women Helping Women will be meeting Tuesday January 19 at 7:30 pm at 8 Baker Street. Phone the Centre for further information

Sunday January 17
1.00 p.m. - ?
Chili and Cornbread
Lunch !!!

at the Centre
for families

for \$2.50 / person.

Sponsored by the
Membership (hint!) Cttee.

Saturday, January 30
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

A Workshop

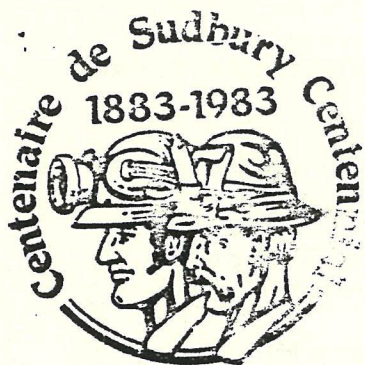
On Nutrition

Alternatives

Call the Centre for
more info 673-1916.

The Sudbury Women's Centre was accepted as a member of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women at their last executive meeting. The Political Action Committee will be monitoring the NAC Memo to see how we can be active NAC members

Sudbury Logo



Can you believe this is the logo the Sudbury Centennial Committee has chosen to commemorate Sudbury's centennial in 1983? The "rationale" for this logo reads in part: "The portraits of these two miners illustrates the Human Element. The character of their expressions communicates to the viewer the pride and dedication of the people who built the community." Hey - what about us??? Come to the next membership meeting January 12 to discuss how to get this logo changed

Rape Crisis Centre

The next meeting of the Rape Crisis Centre will be Sunday January 10 at 8:00 pm at the Women's Centre.

DATE CHANGE: The public forum on rape sponsored by the Rape Crisis Centre will be Thursday February 18 at 7:30 pm at the Sudbury Public Library on Mackenzie Street.

Soup's On

Soup's on will be starting again Friday January 8 at noon. Come and have lunch with us. And don't forget to phone the Centre to volunteer your cooking skills.

1982 SUDBURY WOMEN'S CENTRE MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

\$ 5.00 Employed
\$ 3.00 Student
\$ 1.50 Unemployed

Renew January 17 at the chili and cornbread lunch OR Mail today!!

JANUARY AT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Soups On	9
10 8:00 Rape Crisis	11 noon: Workshop Committee 7:30 Int'l Women's Day	12 General 7:30 Membership Meeting	13	14 7:30 Resource Committee	15 Soups On	16
17 1:00 pm. Chilli'n Cornbread	18 Political 7:30 Action Committee	19 12:00 Membership Committee 7:30 Writers Collective 7:30 WHM	20	21	22 Soups On	23
24/31	25	26 12:00 Fundraising Committee 7:30 General Membership Meeting	27	28	29 Soups On	30



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