

CELEBRATING

\$ 3.00

SEVENTEEN

YEARS

December 1990,
Volume 13 No. 1 & 2
Thunder Bay, Ontario

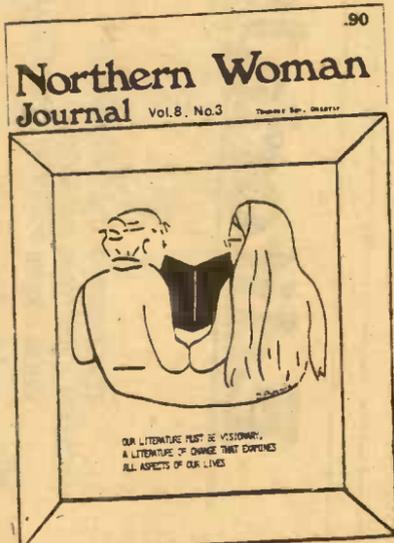
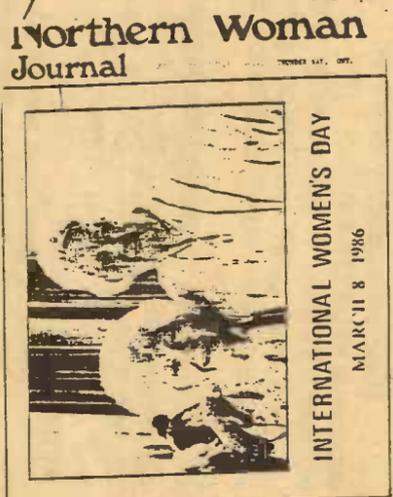
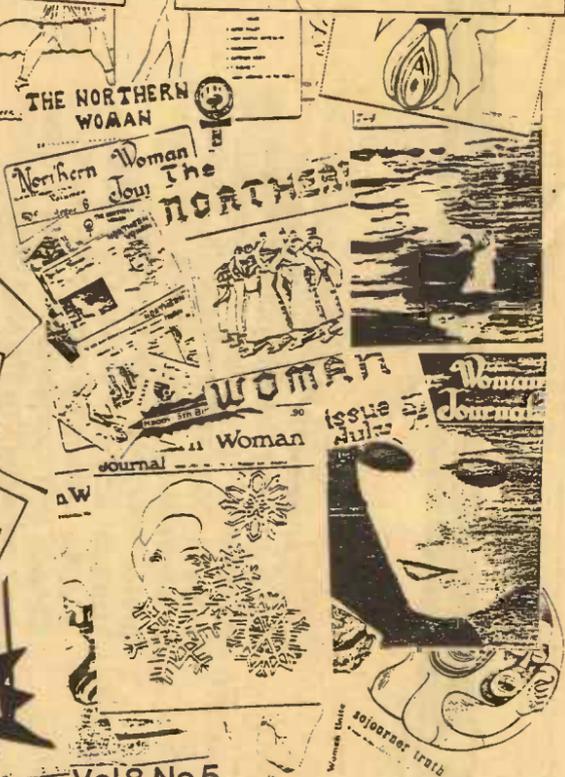
Happy 5th Birthday!!

Northern Woman Journal

REFLECTING

RECOLLECTING

RE-COLLECT-ING



This issue of the NORTHERN WOMAN celebrates ourselves.

What cause for celebration you ask?

Have we suddenly achieved: economic equality? freedom from violence? freedom of reproductive choice? universal child care? recognition of the value of women's work? eradication of poverty?

Have we eliminated the systemic discrimination that marginalizes older women, young women, lesbians, women with disabilities, Native women, immigrant women, ALL women?

To these questions we, of course, must answer no. The issues that face us in the 1990s are as profound, as painful, as the issues that brought us together in 1973 and gave birth to the feminist movement in Northwestern Ontario.

Nonetheless, we think it's worthwhile to celebrate our successes, our persistence, our survival. For seventeen years the NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL has provided an alternative to male-stream press, has given voice to women's interests, women's reality. Our readership is small, although it extends throughout Canada and overseas. We know that our most consistent readership comes from women in small Northwestern Ontario communities and we're glad the information and analysis the NORTHERN WOMAN provides helps ease the isolation regional women experience.

In celebrating the seventeen years of collective NWJ effort, we pay tribute to the women who were/are members of the collective throughout the years. We've contacted as many of these women as we could ... and their voices are heard throughout this paper.

We celebrate the enormous efforts of collective members past and present; we celebrate our contributors whose analysis, stories, poetry and graphics enrich us all; we celebrate the feminist groups throughout Northwestern Ontario who daily support and empower women; and we celebrate you ... our readers.

Our reflection on the NORTHERN WOMAN's herstory will, we hope, re-energize us for many years of publishing, and, we hope, will re-energize you in all your feminist endeavours.



**we must work
collectively —**

**OUR
HERSTORY**



After seventeen years one might say that the NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL has a life of her own. Her evolution has ebbed and flowed, her collective ever-changing, her contributors come and go, her home shifts (always coming back to Bay St.) but the NORTHERN WOMAN just keeps on being, always trying to fulfil her purpose: (see sidebar)

It is easy to lose track of our herstory. So, the present collective - none of whom were founding collective members - have perused old Journals and communicated with earlier Journal women to put together this overview of our herstory. (If we missed out or misinterpreted we're sure that any number of past members will challenge us. May we hope for a reactivated YOUR VOICE column!).

It really all began in 1973 when Northwestern Ontario feminism erupted as 600 women gathered at the Northern Women's Conference. For many women who attended, the 'high' of that weekend remains a critical moment of their lives. Although some feminist University-based activity (primarily the Birth Control Centre) had occurred in the late 1960's, it really was the Northern Women's Conference that sparked the NWO feminist movement and the development of many women's organizations and services.



**if we don't,
our energies die**

continued pg 3

Herstory Continued

The desire to maintain communications amongst Conference participants prompted the birth of the NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL, which began in May 1973 as a newsletter - a "bulletin board" of events. Very quickly however, the newsletter's collective determined the need "to unify women of Northwestern Ontario in their attempts for political and personal emancipation" and the NORTHERN WOMAN joined the growing ranks of Canadian feminist publications. (Of those early periodicals only KINESIS, NORTHERN WOMAN and (perhaps) the OPTIMIST survive.)

Publishing a feminist newspaper has always been a struggle --- with enough joy and satisfaction mixed in to keep going. An early collective stated:

"Embattled and beleaguered, without public support, we became an oasis for the woman who had reached the end of her endurance and needed the support that only women who genuinely care, can give. The newsletter bound us together and in its pages we poured out all the rage and frustration that comes when we are surrounded by an indifferent, uncaring and sometimes malicious public". (3-2)

In 1975 the NORTHERN WOMAN changed her format from a gestetnered newsletter to a tabloid and "dreamed of a wider distribution, a broader range of gut issues that effect all of us as we explore the ever growing move to equal status..."

In assessing progress and seeking greater readership support in 1976 the Journal stated, "As we move with the times and sense the changes in our own perception of ourselves, we are overwhelmed again at the responsibility of a feminist press. To keep the core intact, the values defined, to question the legal structures that betray our right to be full and participating partners in this society and this country, and keep uncommitted women informed as to the energy, the sacrifices, and the triumph that a struggling minority make on their behalf. If, in the final analysis, through our pages, a cleared vision of the term 'sisterhood' emerges and calls for your support and goodwill, you will join a growing number of women who have taken a second look and found us worth the price of subscription. Our intent is to consolidate not divide, to inform not to persuade, and to charge us all with the growing excitement of what it means to be a woman in these changing times."

The desire to develop a strong 'collective' and the demands of 'publishing' the paper have always been contradictory pulls on feminist periodicals (and always will be). Ensuring that the collective members' needs are met through collective process, and readers' needs are met by getting the paper into print is a delicate balancing act -- not always successfully achieved. This is a refrain repeated a number of times over the Journal's seventeen years.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Northern Woman Journal is a vehicle to encourage a feminist awareness of the situation of women in our society. The Journal strives to be a communication link between women in Northwestern Ontario, thus in addition to featuring articles of global and national concern, it will also seek articles of particular relevance to Northwestern Ontario women.

The Journal, portraying women in a positive light, and portraying events from a woman's perspective, serves as an alternative to traditional media.

The Journal's goal is to publish as much original material as possible. Current information/reviews etc. will be preferred, although feminist classics may be reprinted.

The Journal must establish a solid political base, and contributors will be encouraged to develop a strong feminist analysis in their writing.

The Journal Collective may choose for publication articles that reflect views that are not the position of the Collective. However, as feminists, we will not publish material that is offensive and opposed to basic premises of the Women's Movement.

The material selected for inclusion in the Journal will be chosen by the consensus of the Collective. Where solicited contributions are not accepted for publication the Collective will make personal contact with the author to explain the reasons for non-acceptance. In the case of non-solicited contributions efforts will be made to communicate with the author, and where appropriate, encouragement given to assist the contributor to continue her writing.



Faye Peterson Transition House

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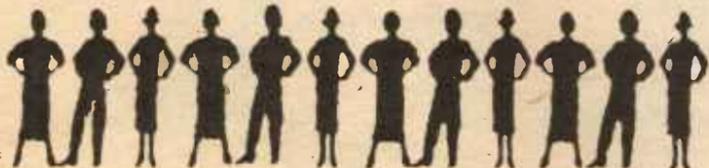
CRISIS HOMES INC. CELEBRATES THE UNSTINTING COMMITMENT OF THE JOURNAL COLLECTIVE WHO, OVER THE PAST SEVENTEEN YEARS, HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO PROMOTE FEMINIST AWARENESS AND ACTION. THE ROLE THE JOURNAL PLAYED IN OVERCOMING THE ISOLATION OF DISTRICT WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE EARLY DAYS, CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. IN PROVIDING A FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION, IN GIVING MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO WOMEN AS THEY ORGANIZED AROUND ISSUES AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE FORE, THE JOURNAL HELPED SUSTAIN US AND, IN THE PROCESS, INSPIRED AND EMPOWERED OTHER WOMEN TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY. WE LOVE YOU. WE SALUTE YOU.

IN SISTERHOOD,

CRISIS HOMES INC.

FAYE PETERSON TRANSITION HOUSE

-- Crisis Homes Inc. --



HERSTORY

1 • 9 • 9 • 0



THE CANADIAN
WOMEN'S CALENDAR

**HERSTORY 1991
THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S CALENDAR**

Herstory 1991 is the 16th issue compiled by the Saskatoon Women's Calendar Collective. As Herstory has evolved and changed over the years, so has the collective. Although, none of the original members remain active, the current collective still maintains the sense of commitment to recording the achievements of Canadian women, which distinguished the original Herstory collective in 1973.

As a collective they produce a lasting record of the achievements of some special Canadian women.

Herstory 1991 continues to present a wide variety of subjects and biographies.

Herstory represents women from all regions and areas in Canada. In addition to some very fine historical and contemporary photos, there are also articles on several women's organization.

Each year Herstory keeps getting better and better. New to the calendar this year are "year-at-a-glance" page markers, a 1992 planner and an address section. Plus Herstory 1991 has all the regular features - weekly calendar pages, phases of the moon and statutory holidays, weekly quotes, the recognition of important dates and anniversaries in women's history and complete references and sources for each subject.

For more information, please contact Joy Turner, Promotion Co-ordinator, COTEAU BOOKS, 401-2206 Dewdney Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, S4R 1H3 (306)777-0170.

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Herstory Continued

A new Journal era occurred in 1977-78 when money was obtained, through government 'make-work' projects, to hire a Journal worker. This solved the 'publishing' problem - the paper was actually printed on time - but did have ramifications for the collective. More and more work - and decision-making - was assumed by the paid staff. Volunteer involvement fell off -- collective process dissipated. The grant ended - one or two women kept the paper alive, and a collective building process had to start anew.

Aside from a small grant to cover office supplies in 1973, this 1977-78 grant was the only time the Journal accepted government funding. The issue has been debated regularly by Journal collectives and the decision has always been - no government funding! The paid staff - volunteer collective dilemma was only a small factor in this decision. The major issue was seen to be the threat of government control of our agenda. The demise of sister magazines - e.g. HERizons and Newsmagazine for Alberta Woman who folded when government funding ceased, and the financial crisis Healthsharing, RFR, and CWS are presently facing, are vivid examples of the danger of depending on government funds. (We applaud the determination of these latter magazines for surviving, and urge them to persevere.)

The issue of government funding is an on-going dilemma for feminist organizations. There are certainly strong arguments for the position that women's groups deserve government funding - women are taxpayers and we should have some return for our tax dollar. No doubt the funding question will be debated again by future Journal collectives. It would be nice to be able to pay our contributors. Women writers and artists should be paid. But we as women must control our own agenda, and until we have a government that women can trust, the question of government funding will always be problematic.

The cover of the October 1979 Journal asked "Is the Journal Dead ... or only sleeping?" The small group that had been holding the Journal together threw out the challenge to other women.

And respond they did. The December 1979 Journal began with a letter to readers: "The Northern Woman Journal is alive! A new feminist collective has been meeting every week for the past two months. It is the first time for us to both work together collectively, as well as put out a feminist newspaper. Our experience in the women's movement varies... A few of us have been active in feminist activities for many years, while a couple of us have recently recovered from the 1975 'feminist burnout'... Others in our collective are relatively new to the concept of feminism (in the collective sense) and possess an energetic enthusiasm which seems to tie the whole thing together... All in all the challenge of putting out this paper has been exciting and inspiring for all involved... We realize the need to establish a political base (a solid foundation) on which to build our paper. To do this we will need your help in the form of feedback both supportive and critical. We have chosen not to seek any form of government funding. All our workers are presently volunteers. Any contributions to aid us financially will be greatly appreciated."

The 'excitement and inspiration' felt by this feisty group soon was confronted by the 'collective-process/publishing' contradiction. So a decision was made in June 1980 to stop publishing for six months and devote that time to collective building. In that period ... "the collective regained its stamina ... The born-again collectivist worked on issues of the family; sexuality; was urged to read feminist books; and basically got to know herself and the other members" ... and began publishing again in February 1981.

The core of this collective (with a few new members, a few departures) stayed together until 1986 when a number of the women felt it was time to move on to other endeavours. The camaraderies of this collective continues however in personal interaction and mutual support.

The highlight of Journal publishing in these years was the Prisons issue (see sidebar for Prisons issue editorial).

For a period of about a year ('86/'7) members who wanted to 'retire' made a conscious effort to recruit new Journal members, working with them as the new Journal learned the publishing skills and built collective confidence. This transition process occurred again in 1989 as new members became involved and others withdrew.

The Journal is not only a paper and a collective, but also a "space". Earlier reference was made to Bay St. and there is considerable nostalgia amongst long-time feminists for 316 Bay. Originally operating from members' homes, the Journal moved in April 1974 into the Archibald St. YMCA space occupied by the newly established Northern Women's Centre. "The collective felt inhibited by the Women's Centre, seeing it as a place for women just beginning to consider feminism. These women would feel intimidated by a radical feminist paper" so in 1975 the Journal moved into her own space at 316 Bay St. (space formerly occupied by the alternative newspaper the Black Fly).

In 1977 the adjacent restaurant space at 316 Bay became vacant and a number of women's groups took over the space - Women's Centre, Rape Crisis Centre, Decade Council, Northern Women's Credit Union, Crisis Homes. As these groups grew and space was juggled, the Journal ended up in the kitchen... not great lighting but a marvellous layout table! For various reasons the original groups later decided to move to other locations - and the Journal reclaimed her store-front space. When Women's Centre, the last group to go, relocated, a major decision was required. Journal's little room was adequate but we loved the whole space that had seen so many intense discussions, celebrations, and joyful times. So the Journal and other long-time feminists committed personal money to pay the rent and Women's Space developed as a comfortable, warm, welcoming Space for women to meet, or to use for individual endeavours/needs.

In 1983 the Northern Woman's Bookstore came into being and needed storefront space. So it was back to the kitchen again, which Journal did happily, rejoicing in the thought of a feminist bookstore in Thunder Bay.

continued pg 5

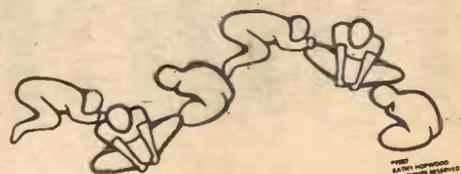


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARCHIBALD ST. YMCA

Herstory Continued

The Journal, Space and Bookstore continued merrily through 1984 - then disaster - the building was sold and we had to move. By this time Women's Centre had become disenchanted of their second floor office and approached Journal about sharing space again. On New Year's Eve we made a weepy good-bye to 316 Bay and Journal, Bookstore and Centre located at 69 N. Court St. (In the following months Women's Space as an entity simply faded away.)

Not long after locating at Court St. the building's owner died, and an unsettling eighteen months was spent until the building was sold and the need to move was finally known. In early 1987 Journal, Bookstore and Centre moved down the street to 184 Camelot. By the summer of 1988 the Journal determined that its requirement for "a space with positive feminist energy ... (needed) to provide a feminist press alternative for all women" could no longer be met at 184 Camelot, as "the relationship between Northern Women's Centre and the Northern Woman Journal had deteriorated to the point where we no longer shared collective space but existed as landlord and tenant."

So the Journal moved again --- and, happily, back to Bay St. The present Journal shares space with the Northwestern Ontario Regional Day Care Committee at 281 Bay St. and we feel safe and happy in our "women-only" space.

This discussion of our herstory must make mention of finances. With the exception of the brief government funding previously discussed, the NORTHERN WOMAN had always been self-sufficient. Our revenue is derived from subscriptions, donations and occasionally advertisements. In 1980, the Journal was the beneficiary of the profits from Gert Beadles's poetry publication *Rising*. This generous gift provided a cushion which saw us through financial short-falls for a number of years but was exhausted by 1986.

The Journal takes pride in her financial self-sufficiency. But many, many times it is so close to the line. We are fortunate to have a patient printer, Web Press, that is prepared to wait three or four months while the new subscription money trickles in and enough is collected to pay the last printing bill. Too many times Journal members have used personal money to buy supplies and postage.

When a financial crisis looms the Journal has made an appeal to our readers for donations. And you have responded generously. Without your donations the Journal would have folded long ago.

The current financial situation is no better than other years. We are in the black -- but barely. We would enjoy the luxury of having a comfortable credit union balance, so our energies could be devoted to Journal content. We could achieve financial stability if we significantly increased subscriptions. In the past our readers have been asked to help in this regard -- you can expect to be asked again in the future.



A word of explanation about the numbering of the Journal Volumes is in order, as no doubt some of you will ask why this is Volume 13 - if the Journal's been publishing for 17 years. The simple answer is lack of awareness of publishing niceties. Originally the Journal was published six times per year. This schedule wasn't always maintained and in the early '80s it was decided four publications a year was more realistic. However, we continued to print 6 issues per Volume, even though it might take 18-20 months to complete a Volume. (In retrospect this certainly added to various financial crunches as we continued to charge subscription rates by Volume - not year.)

In 1985 we began 4 issues per Volume. Some years we've only published three issues, but provided 4 issues per subscription. Is this clear...or are you more confused?

Because of the extra effort needed to do this Anniversary issue we've enlarged the publication and made it a double issue. We will return to our 16 page format for future issues, and we have the goal of publishing quarterly. (The realities of a volunteer publication means our goal isn't always met and we ask for your indulgence.)

Throughout her seventeen years the Journal has been much sustained by our sister Canadian feminist publications. Early collectives were greatly inspired by *Upstream* and *The Other Woman*. *Broadside* was a mainstay for many years and is sorely missed. We relate to the concerns, problems and progress of other smaller publications. Our horizons are expanded by CWS, RFR, *Women and Environments*, *Healthsharing*, *The Womanist* and others. *Kinesis* continues to be an inspiration.

On several occasions Journal women have participated in a Canadian Feminist Periodicals Conference and have returned with renewed vision and energy. The output of Canadian feminist newspapers and magazines is really quite astounding. While some disappear from the scene, new ones keep emerging. While recognizing that the 1990s will be difficult, we are confident that feminist periodicals will not only survive but will expand in influence and importance. A gathering of feminist periodicals could be empowering and we hope this may develop.

The cooperation, support and sharing of other feminist periodicals, past and present, has been a rewarding experience for the Journal, and we thank all of you most sincerely.

The present Journal collective (seven of us) have been working together for only a year. Some of us are long-time community and feminist activists, others are newer to Thunder Bay (and younger), bringing new feminist energy to the NORTHERN WOMAN. As we get to know one another our collectivity strengthens, and our determination grows to ensure that the NORTHERN WOMAN survives. Sometimes Journal tasks feel almost overwhelming, more often it is challenging and fun. We believe the NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL is important.



PRISON S ISSUE

EDITORIAL

Many months ago, as the Northern Woman Journal collective was meeting to plan future issues of *The NORTHERN WOMAN*, we suddenly found ourselves engrossed in a discussion of our (i.e. women's) situation. Many hours later Donna (who always discusses with pen and paper in hand) brought to our attention key words she had heard us say. Restricting. Inhibiting. Tied up. Locked. Cramped. Confined. Limit. Cage. Stopped. Caught. Duty Subordinate. Trapped. Silence. Inferior. Blocked. Excluded. An so, this. "Prisons" issue was born.

Prisons is not a cheerful topic. Yet, an understanding that the factors that imprison women are systemic is crucial. The "prisons" imposed by rape, battering, pornography, sexual harassment, denial of reproductive rights will only be counteracted when we fully understand them as issues of male power and control. The dilemmas women face regarding double work days, inadequate day care, isolation, and 'super-woman' exhaustion, will be rationalized only when we understand the tyranny of the "institutions" of marriage and motherhood, and can separate the "institutions" from our very normal desire for warm, caring relationships.

We will only regain control of our own well-fare when we acknowledge the misogyny of many "experts" (medical practitioners, counsellors, etc.) who have usurped women's traditional healing roles. And it is important to recognize and analyze the renewed economic oppression women are experiencing - blanketed by that over-used term recession. Let's face it, the governments' (6&5 and 9&5) restraint programs are a direct attack on women. It is not accidental that in Canada poverty is largely a female phenomena.

Urging an examination of the prisons that restrict us is meant not to depress us, but to empower us. It is only when we understand and acknowledge the roots of the oppression of women, that we will develop the strength, the courage and the creativity to demolish the "prison wall". (editorial, Vol. 7-6).



Congratulations for your achievements
over the past seventeen years.

ATIKOKAN CRISIS CENTRE

DOREEN BOUCHER PAT GRAVER LYNN SIHVONEN
 MARION BABCOCK ESTELLA HOWARD LYNDA SKRYBEK
 HELEN HALET GERT BEADLE SHARON LUND LYNNE THORNBURG
 GEORGINA GARRETT CARY MARSHALL THYRA HAPPONEN
 EVE PYKERMAN-DOWSON NOREEN LAVOIE

1973-77

1978-79

THYRA HAPPONEN
 DOREEN BOUCHER
 NOREEN LAVOIE GERT BEADLE
 LYNNE THORNBURG ELAINE LYNCH
 GEORGINA GARRETT
 DONNA PHOENIX
 PEGGY SMITH
 EVE PYKERMAN-DOWSON

*Celebrating
 17 Years
 of
 Journal
 Women*

1980-83

ELAINE LYNCH GERT BEADLE SARA WILLIAMSON
 JOYCE MICHALCHUK LYNN BEAK HELEN HALET GEORGINA GARRETT
 NOREEN LAVOIE DOREEN BOUCHER MIRIAM WALL ANNA MCCOLL
 ESTELLA HOWARD TERESA LEGOWSKI DANALYN MCKINNON VIOLA NIKKILA
 DONNA PHOENIX WILMA SELLERS KATHRYN BRULE
 ROSALYN TAYLOR EVE PYKERMAN-DOWSON ARJA LANE MONIKA MCNABB
 MARGARET PHILLIPS

1984-98

KAREN MAKI
 DONNA PHOENIX
 KATHRYN BRULE
 TERESA LEGOWSKI
 MARGARET PHILLIPS
 SARA WILLIAMSON
 ROSALYN TAYLOR
 ANNA MCCOLL
 JOYCE MICHALCHUK
 ARJA LANE
 NOREEN LAVOIE
 MIRIAM WALL

1987-88

JONI MACE
 ROSE PITTIS
 LORETTA PAVAN
 KIT MINOR
 RAE ANNE HONEY
 CAROLYN GREENWOOD
 MARY ANN KLEYNEDORST
 CINDY STOLZ
 KAREN MAKI
 DONNA PHOENIX
 MARGARET PHILLIPS
 ANNA MCCOLL

1989 - present

RAE ANNE HONEY
 DEBBIE BENNIE
 MARGARET PHILLIPS
 NANCY LYONS
 JANE SAUNDERS
 KIT MINOR
 JOSIE WALLENIUS
 MARGARET JOHNSTON

OUR FONDEST MEMORIES OF THE NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL...

... when Margaret, Nancy and I were sitting in the office one night planning our Montreal issue. Perhaps it was the occasion when I felt the strongest about my connection to these two very interesting and different women. We three were one in our thoughts at that time and place.

... gathering with the collective to look at what was going to be included in the "next issues".
... sitting down together and looking over what had been submitted.
... sorting it all out together.
... reading out material.
... listening to other viewpoints or ones that confirm your own reality. Inspirational!

... my own part in its production, my respect and affection for the collective, and my passion for the idea whose time had surely come.

... as a reader, I remember how grateful I was to receive an issue while I was in Norway House 1981-83, so isolated from the women's movement. I am almost as pleased today, to learn you are still in circulation, representing a very important constituency.

... getting it out on time - what fun!
... meetings, meetings, meetings.
... early stage of women's movement.

... every time I was able to go without the twins to chase after.

... I liked the women and the ideas and I liked making a contribution to feminist work, but the actual work on preparing the paper wasn't really pleasure.

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE PAST AND PRESENT NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL COLLECTIVE MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY...



... the Prison issue.
... the sense of achievement when Kathryn taught us how to lay-out and produce the paper properly.
... the excitement and energy generated when Noreen, later Anna, later Carolyn reported back on Feminist Periodicals Conferences.
... the mutual nurturing/support of the 82-86 collective
... the hours spent (82-86) in feminist collective process.

... working on the issue dedicated to the women of Montreal was a wonderful collective experience. I participated in every facet of publishing the issue: typing, writing, paste up, mailing, etc; etc.

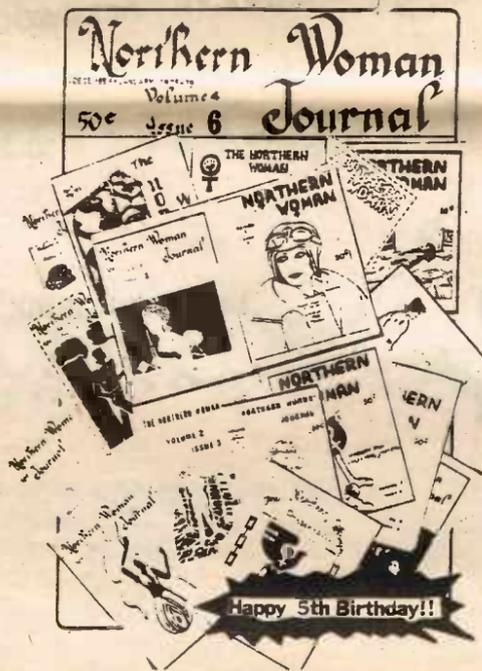
... cutting and pasting up on the old lunch counter in the Bay St. location, with the omnipresent smell of greasy fries.

... I enjoyed the camaraderie that existed between members of the collective as we put out each issue of the journal.
... the work and resulting feeling of satisfaction was rewarding.

...my first time sticking pieces together.

... getting it out.
... when we went painting at the Kangas.
... Noreen asking me to do a cover.
...that we are still there for each other, even now.

... seeing the first paper that I worked on to it's completion.
... learning what it means to be a collective member (i.e. What do you think?)
... seeing my first article published.



... in one of our first issues, that was in newspaper form, we printed a list of extremely derogatory words that are directed at women, mostly by men, i.e. cunt, pussy. It was a list of about twenty words. Correspondingly, we could only come up with about five for the male. I think this same issue contained fuck too. "Kill A Man For Motherhood" was done tongue in cheek, (oh really). Anyway we did have some concern about reader's reactions, however, the feeling of power of the printed word and our collective decision overshadowed other concerns. We had fun imagining the reactions of readers.

... pasting up the typed columns under a single lamp in the back of the old restaurant on Bay Street (278) that was the W.W.C.
... Rosalyn and I sat side-by-side surrounded by old restaurant equipment, the Gestetner, and odds and ends, trying to be as creative with layout as we could given our limited materials. Rosalyn was a new inductee and great company and a real booster to my enthusiasm.
... the Journal printed one of my poems years after I was no longer involved.



OUR FAVOURITE ANECDOTES, HORROR STORIES, ADVENTURES/MISADVENTURES...

... the radical irreverence with which we looked at life/our lives/men.
... the anger and the unpraised fists when we/someone became really mad.
... the "don't give a damn" attitude of the old Journal.
... I'm proud of our caring stance toward all women.

... being able to witness Margaret's utter devotion.

... when I took the July 89 Journal to the Post Office, the woman asked me why we had not filled out a Statement of Mailing - she said that we had an editor who was paid to do such a job. She got a bit of education on collective publishing and volunteerism that day.

... my misadventure was being a paid staff person. I was hired at \$128.00/week on a Canada Works project to do the journal and various printing jobs the Women's Centre did. The contradiction and crux of my problem was that I had to revive a collective, but wasn't a true collective member because I was paid staff. At meetings, and lay out sessions I had a vested interest in making things work because it was my job. This weighted the collective in my direction. Hence publishing the N.W.J. was often a solitary task for me. That's why my fondest memory is being side by side with Rosalyn.

... The great thing about being paid staff was by being at NWJ 40 hours each week I met so many people whom I will never forget.

... having to listen to my (then four and half year old) daughter ask me why she had to go to "my" boring meetings at NWJ!?! Hearing her explain how these meetings were my work, not hers, and that she shouldn't have to go. I ended up promising her that I would not drag her to "my meetings" ever again; thinking these meetings will be "hers" as well, sometime in the future, if I don't turn her off by pushing her, forcing her to go.



... the only anecdotes I can think of are the ones where we had misunderstandings.
... the only mentionable horror is the scuzzy sink of cups with mouldy tea bags when we were on Bay St. We'd clean the cups, make tea on the gas stove and then sit on the old stuffed furniture and discuss.

... too crazy to think about it, probably blocked a lot out.

... the controversial cartoon.
... the hours spent debating the political correctness of accepting an ad from a hairdresser.

... there were so many terrific articles.
... I was impressed by Margaret Phillips. After she went to a Creative Writing program in the States - she wrote many interesting articles. I always enjoyed it - when a woman came back from something challenging and shared her vision with us.
... I always enjoyed Gert Beadles poetry.
... I enjoyed Donna's pregnant pot.

... I had worked on several issues as typist, gatherer of Update information, mail person, etc. I felt quite confident and fulfilled as a collective member. However Margaret and I seemed to be the only two who were able to work on an issue and together pasted up the whole issue. It took several evenings to paste up my long article. The time and effort to do that one article made me wonder if this was what I wanted to do with my free time. Seeing that Journal published with straight columns, correct sequentially number pages and great graphics assured me it was. the next issue was fun - it was assumed by some that I knew what I was doing and could teach them these skills.

... doing one page about 10 times and nobody getting ANGRY.

... every issue.
... that someone who couldn't spell worth a shit had no feeling for punctuation and was not thoroughly politicized could take up all that printed space is still a revelation to me.
... when "they" didn't understand my design of woman with wings out of the bulk.



OUR INVOLVEMENT IN FEMINIST ISSUES/SERVICES...

... very concerned with young single mothers and resources for them.
 ... have met with others who share that concern.
 ... everyday I meet someone who is a fellow traveller, and we are all making an imperceptible difference just by being who we are.

... I support every woman's clinic and abortion rights, support nothing financially that does not support the cause and will do 2 Feminism and other right Brain Ideas this fall.

... CARAL, Ogden East Community Health Centre (community development).

... I attend C.A.R.A.L. meetings. That is about it.

... attempting to educate people not to assume and stereotype. I am actively involved in this pursuit being a lesbian co-parent.

... I'm a Board member of Faye Peterson Transition House lobbying for a new larger shelter for district women and children and working to end male violence against women.

... I work to improve the lives of women...whatever work I do, I instill feminist values into it, I bring along with me to whatever situation I'm in, the sense that there are options and choices, creative alternatives to be developed by women for the betterment of life. Feminism isn't an issue or a service I provide, it's a lifestyle I'm trying to live, one that takes responsibility for the changes it's creating, with care.

... I'm involved in equal education for all. I want to do all I can to see the barriers to employment removed for women. I try to equip women with the information to help them (e.g. Where to find good child care. Who to go to for financial assistance). I attempt to steer women who are interested towards a future in computers or to non-traditional occupations in the trades.

... LEAF - a group involved in Charter-based issues affecting women.
 ... I exercise a feminist perspective in my legal studies.

... the Northern Woman's Bookstore.

... I am a feminist who brings something to everything I do, although my analysis isn't always as sharp as it could be.

... presently, my commitment to teaching leaves me little time/energy to volunteer
 ... in the past I have worked at 3 different Transition Houses and I feel that the issue of violence against women and children is my main feminist issue/interest second to lesbian issues.

... Peace and International Justice.

... I am too busy co-parenting twin male toddlers in a lesbian/feminist household.

... Director of Physical and Sexual Assault Centre. Still plugging away, and getting paid for it.

... council member of: Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care and NW Ontario Day Care Committee.

... Union - Public Service Alliance, Canada Employment and Immigration Union Local 623 Chief Steward mainly women membership.
 ... CARAL - still trying to phase the organizing over to new membership.



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !

NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL

"Women's weapons are traditionally their tongues and the principal revolutionary tactic has always been the spread of information."

Germaine Greer
 The Female Eunuch



OUR WRITING/PUBLISHING...

... no, no, no. None.
 ... this is not entirely original but I'd like to share it. "Feminism is the right to examine the world from a woman's viewpoint and analyse that viewpoint" i.e. Economic equality, Physical integrity (birthing/abortion/battering/incest/pornography).

... no time at the present.

... I write every day in my mind, though I rarely take time to put it on paper.
 ... I have submitted an article to the Journal and it was published. This left me with a great sense of satisfaction. I plan to attempt to contribute an article of interest to all upcoming issues.

... I write poetry, and editorial-kind of letters about various issues affecting our communities. I am being published by NORTHERN LIFE newspaper (sister of LAKEHEAD LIVING) in Sudbury and by NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL in Thunder Bay.

... sneaking a minute to jot down something in my journal.
 ... plugging away at my Master's Thesis.

... writing music, performed by myself and other groups, i.e. The Portland Lesbian Choir.
 ... writing the odd poem.

... Northern Woman Journal, Humanist, Womanist, Canadian Tribune, Change for Children, W.I.L.P.F., Lakehead Living column.

... personal journal.
 ... a book on my recent hysterectomy called "How to turn pain into butterflies and let it go".

... the local paper seem happy to print my poetry and have on several occasions printed verbatim speeches I have made.
 ... I contribute to several B.C. newsletters.
 ... I do From the Crones Nest for Herspectives.

... I've been preparing people that when I retire I'm going to write Gothics. They think I'm joking. Romanticism with a strong woman lead - that gets the guy - though not sure she wants him and lots of humour. I need a good laugh! We all do.

... writing proposals for work.
 ... wrote "What can I Do" with Diane Loucks and Donna Mikeluk and other members of W.H.I.N. published 1988.

... am too busy to write much beyond material required for my courses.

... no time for my own writing, promoting other women's writing instead.

... not writing concretely, but in my head all the time. I won't be truly fulfilled until I have written some fiction, published or not, that I am satisfied with.

... I write all the time for broadcast - short, single thought sentences, that are an art in themselves.

... articles are occasional like for Polyphony, or something for Women's Health Information Network. Helped edit out of town birthing.

... can't seem to get away from it in some capacity.

The JOURNAL ... covered ... CONFERENCES ...

WOMEN AND POLITICS 1975

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CENTRES 1975

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE 1976

WORKING WOMEN 1977

REGIONAL CHILD CARE 1977

DRYDEN CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN 1978

WOMEN AND STRESS

LIFE BEGINS AT FORTY

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 1979

50 YEAR A PERSON CELEBRATION

WOMEN IN SINGLE INDUSTRY TOWNS WORKSHOP

WOMEN'S HEALTH 1981

WOMEN AND STRESS 1982

WOMEN AND ECONOMY 1983

DRYDEN CONFERENCE 1984

FORUM ON WOMEN AND THE NORTH 1984

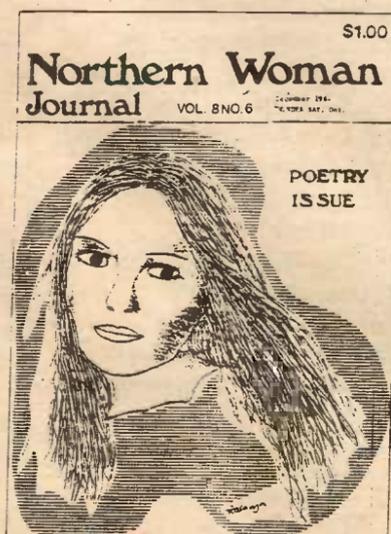
WOMEN AND DISABILITIES 1985

NORTH SHORE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 1985

YOUNG WOMEN 1986

GERALDTON WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 1986

KENORA CONFERENCE 1989



CONGRATULATIONS ! ! ! !

Northern Women of The Journal on your perseverance and commitment over the past seventeen years of publishing. You have been one of the consistent supports for all women in the north.

May you collectively publish forever.

Staff

Ontario Women's Directorate

Northern Office

Jesse Russell

Pam Wakewich

Rae Anne Honey

Nicole Laberge

OUR THOUGHTS ON FEMINIST PUBLISHING IN CANADA TODAY...

... scarcity. I subscribe from Newfoundland to Vancouver, and find the Journal is still to me closer to the bone, uncompromising in its feminist ethic and the only journal I can read 3 times over and get a real sense of the people writing it, since I refuse to give up my lust for rage and have at no time been impressed with scholarly dissertations on how we should proceed. I find a lot of feminist writing today without heart or spirit.

... persistent - survivors.

... I keep thinking about how few books paper in Africa, Latin America.

... it is very encouraging for me to see some Women's publishing in Canada - Women's Press in Toronto, Harbour Publishing in B.C. These are publishing important feminist and lesbian books, guides, fiction, and feminist issues are being published too - technology, poverty, etc.

... struggling still. Every time I subscribe to something it hits a funding crisis. Herizons, Healthsharing, and on and on. It gets very tiresome, but there doesn't seem to be the population base to support feminist magazine.

... Journal is erratic and often not worth the wait.

... I still want feminist magazines because although they are less and less set apart from mainstream because feminist publications just don't have the writers, there is the occasional startling idea that hasn't been mainstreamed. Information is big stuff now - it's everywhere and easier to access--much of the alternative press isn't alternative in the true sense or the word and you really have to publication shop to get the whole range of thought these days.

... I am very grateful to the woman's Bookstore because I know I can have access to specifically feminist books.

... ever-expanding.

... we seem to be losing ground.

... when I last visited the Vancouver Women's Bookstore I was dismayed to see so few feminist newspapers. The N.W.J. used to exchange with twenty or so feminist publications in the seventies from all across Canada, US and England. I think the powerful feminist books written during this time could be suggested reading, along with the, much appreciated, suggested reading list that the Journal prints each issue. I am building up a feminist library, that I never had/could afford by purchasing from "garage sales" and used book stores. I realize the financial problems of the feminist press is a serious consideration.

... I am extremely proud that the N.W.J. is still being published. You all should be commended. Happy to see MS is back without advertising.

... I hate to say it - I haven't read that much fiction or theoretical works lately of feminist authors/publications - except Atwood, Vale Allen, Sandra Butler. In the early days I consumed everything - I don't need to read - my experience with the work I do is enough reality.

... I have made a vow to attempt to read only works written by women. Presently much of time is not reading for personal pleasure, but reading "Where is Spot?". ... I support in heart all Feminist works.

... I don't access journals much. I need the local Women's Centre newsletter to know what activities are going on. Now and then I have to read a book or position paper on feminist thought and analysis. My escape reading is almost exclusively Canadian women writers of the last 20 years - I get these books from the library usually.

... despite problems - it is still vibrant. My major regret is Broadside closing - attributed mainly to burnout. The other feminist periodicals (e.g. Herizons, Newsmagazine - Alta.) fell into the trap of depending on government funding and were unable to survive funding setbacks. There are an amazing number of little publications and specialized magazines (Flip, Tiger Lily), that are surviving - more new publications arise - than old ones fold. However, we need a truly national, monthly paper. Kinesis comes closest to filling this need and we should probably support its growth and national evolution. (The Womanist isn't developing as the major national paper because of its erratic publishing schedule). We do need a Feminist Periodicals Conference to plan some national strategies and re-energize everyone.

... COVERED INTERVIEWS ...

ANSEA JOANNA MCLELLAND 1975
pioneer Rainy River woman

ABBIE HOFFMAN 1977
Canadian sports heroine

MURIEL BOYCE 1978
pioneer Sioux Lookout woman

SUZETTE DOWNEY 1977
Longlac artist

LAURETTA JOHNSON 1979
Thunder Bay businesswoman

GAYLE CHAPPLE 1979
Thunder Bay artist

HEATHER BISHOP 1979
performer, singer, painter, carpenter

DUSTY MILLER 1979
municipal politician

LAURIE CONGER: SINGING OUT LOUD
Canadian singer song writer

SHIRLEY BEAR 1982
Native artist & activist

KIM ERIKSON, PATRICIA LUDWICK
& SVETLANA SYLIN 1985
composer, playwright & director

MARY BURNS, MITZI HAUSER 1985
actors SIDE EFFECT

RUTH CUNNINGHAM 1986
Women's Programs Director C.C.

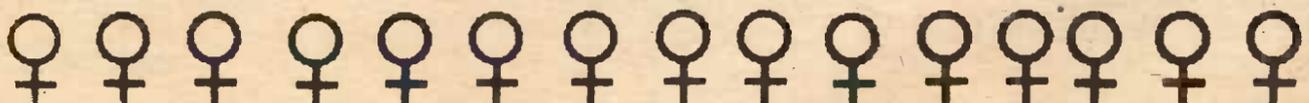
SASHA MCINNES 1986
tapestry artist

JOSIE WALLENIUS 1988
acoustic storyteller

DOROTHY O'CONNELL
author



In her study, Northwestern Ontario Status of Women Initiatives 1973-1987, Fiona Karlstedt says of the Journal, "Timely, provocative and relevant, the Journal serves as an alternative to traditional media, covering issues and events from women's experience and perspective...A social document, broader in its implications as a political journal, symbolizing the ideas that were being nurtured by a group of area women simultaneously, the NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL is required reading for anyone studying the history of the women's movement in Northwestern Ontario.



... COVERED ISSUES ... THESE HEADLINES DEMONSTRATE ...

BLUE COLLAR BLUES

MEMOIRS OF A STRIKER

THE CRISIS OF SOLE SUPPORT MOTHERS

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE

LIFE IN A SMALL TOWN

EQUAL PAY CONFERENCE: ANOTHER PLACEBO

BLOOMERS FOR GIRLIES, BUT SHORTS FOR BOYS

THE DYNAMICS OF CABIN FEVER

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE CERVIX

WORDS THAT MAKE WOMEN DISAPPEAR

OBSCENE USE OF POWER

SHADES OF REGRESSION

LESBIAN MOTHERS IN MOTION

A COLLAGE OF BARRIERS

DOING IT TO US: MANPOWER & U.I.C

LONG DISTANCE DELIVERY

A FEAR LIKE STONE

A MATTER OF CHOICE

OUR THOUGHTS ON THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN CANADA TODAY..

... my feminist energy was drained, and is still low. Except for reading, speaking out when necessary and attending most rallies/protests in Van. I have not been doing much else. I did go to the W.R. Women's Centre a few times but have not met anyone at my level of awareness of women's issues. This centre is typical of so many in that it is always concerned about losing its funding, and this is reflected in their "safe" activities. I think some of us who have been active since the sixties and seventies are tired. I get so impatient with anyone who becomes defensive with a particular statement I'll have made. Their argument with me is usually on a personal level with a "blame the victim" mentality. It is terribly frustrating and discouraging. I think "The Personal Is Political" needs to be discussed/written about more. When women can see that their personal failings are not their fault, but the fault of a society which keeps them powerless, dependent and frightened in every aspect of their daily lives. Are these insights "clicks" happening to young women today? One of the main ways that women in the past got involved in the Women's Movement was in consciousness-raising groups. This is still where the "person is politic" will take on real meaning. Right now I think I'd like to start a CR group. Anyone know where I can get a copy of Bonnie Kreps' book "Guide to the Women's Movement? I also think I should get involved with Kinesis the Van. feminist publication. Overall I think the feminist movement's impact on the lives of women has been overwhelmingly positive from the point of view of choice, and will continue to do so.

... from a woman's position I see us re-describing the world.

... directed and controlled too much by middle class women AND government funding. The feminist movement has evolved from an exciting radical theory into a bureaucratic lip service (i.e. talk with no action) that has alienated and/or turned-off too many women.

... I miss the solidarity of our collective but I still feel that each woman is doing her best individually to keep feminist principles alive. Sometimes I feel alone and I think I might be losing impact. When I feel this way, all I have to do is call a member of the old collective and I feel strength returning. I also know that another group of women are keeping up the good work.

... where is the revolution?

... still not getting through to women at work, i.e. all the other women.



from *mujer/fempress*

... it amazes me that feminism is still thought of as the F word. It concerns me that young women still believe that Prince Charming will sweep them off their feet and they will live happily ever after. When will they learn that when you have a horse someone must clean up the shit and that it's usually not Prince Charming.

... I know that many women are working towards change in Canada. Sometimes we feel isolated because of geography. We are only as isolated as we make ourselves. There is an adequate amount (could always be more) of feminist activity in Canada. Some could use more publicity (like the NWJ).

... slow but steady. I find most people are open to listen to, and attempt to understand many feminist issues. However, I find most exposure to feminist issues are limited to a selective population. For example in the classrooms and at work "Boys will be boys, and girls will be girls". When will the day come that people can just be people! Perhaps I am anxious to see the end result before our work is done. I congratulate all women who are committed to this end.

... would be a major essay.

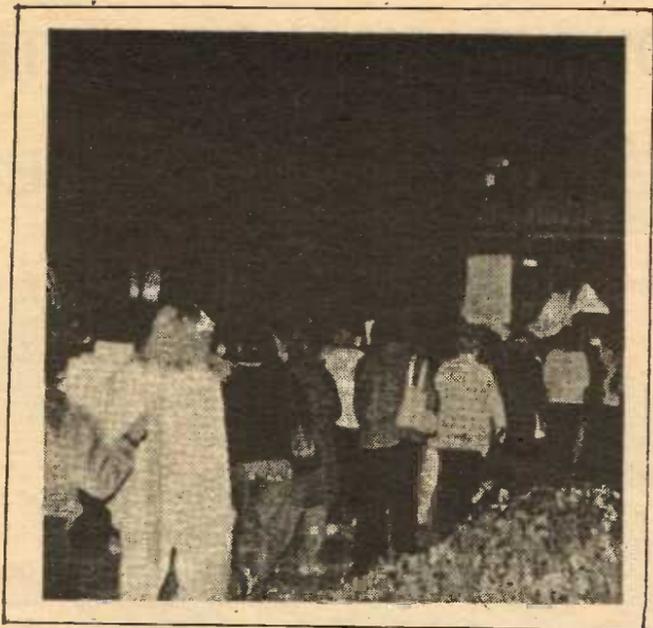
... I feel like we have a long road ahead of us. I try and make a conscious effort to educate the people around about feminism and lesbianism.

... I have perfect confidence in the inevitability of change. Feminists are thinking how can we keep the vision and survive in an oppressive culture. In B.C. women with feminist grounding are into Metaphysics and simply shoring up the inner resources to resist all external pressures, all religious and political thought that is detrimental to free choices. I believe these women will not give up this sense of self under pressure but are the new wave to future change.

... we grew up - (the oldies, I mean) - it's still there, won't go away, nor should it. But we still have a long way to go. I make a small contribution. I worry sometime that we are still a minority. There should be more to pass on the flame. Society is still traditional and God help us! The last 9 years the mood has been right-wing reversal.

... glad to see new blood, but the adolescent woman is still in outer space as far as an analysis of patriarchy is concerned: need to reach her at gut level.

... I think there is no turning back now. I can see the results on my own street--stay home fathers. Women may not consciously call themselves feminists but they are living with feminist attitudes because of the changes wrought by feminism. The people overlooked are poor, native - this is as much because of classism and racism and a lack of a unified voice, as it is sexism. Although sexism is alive and well, it's not so threatening to me now.



Gert Beadle
 I am 75 this year, deteriorating at a normal pace physically but still functioning above average as far as I can see mentally. I am totally selfish and self-absorbed, allowing only friends of choice to invade my solitude. I take this message of independence wherever I am invited and have no interest whatsoever in shoring up anybody's poor self image...I am part of the collective at the W.C. but only as a supporting voice. I enjoy their support and affection. I host a full moon coven, and have for three years been their Crone. Women are my family, and first consideration after me. I love my life, I feel creative occasionally and still write both poetry and letters to the editor.

Noreen Dunbar (Lavoie)
 I live in White Rock, B.C. and am employed by the City and work out of the Senior Citizen Activity Centre. This is casual employment and I am also a respite care worker for the Surrey Association For the Mentally Retarded. My daughter Marcy, 19, recently left to be on her own and lives in Vancouver with two friends. I share in an equal (I pay half) economic support relationship with a man, Charlie. He does not share my concerns about woman's oppression. This contradictory relationship is somewhat balanced by many other mutual interests we share. We dance, camp, and explore beautiful B.C. and the west coast well together. In May I was fortunate to receive a generous gift from a former collective member, Gert Beadle. It was a trip to Europe. If I had a few feminist friends (sisters) out here life would be just perfect for me. At least come for a visit. I'm into stained glass as a hobby, learned it from, you guessed it, Charlie.



Doreen Boucher
 Director of Physical and Sexual Assault Centre. Married in 1976, but involvement with Journal/Centre prepared me...gave him a long list of I won't do's, and he married me anyway. No kids...please refer to above statement. Leisure...I'm learning to slow down-no choice-getting old and selfish. For fun I do nothing..read junk/sew. Creativity...this job. Travel...fear of planes/flying-I hear Murillo is nice this time of year.



Helen Halet
 She left Thunder Bay this past summer for the Sunshine Coast, and is living in Sechelt.



Georgina Garrett

My life is fairly busy and complex these days, not unlike most of your lives I'm sure. I am completing the second year of my law degree, with one year after this one left. I work part-time at two jobs, both associated with law. I enjoy my two sons, Thomas (now 13) and Keith (3 and 1/2). I like living in Winnipeg, but I do miss Thunder Bay, and the real sense of community that exists there.



Peggy Smith

After living in Saskatchewan for a number of years, she returned to Thunder Bay in 1987, and is now in her final year of forestry at L.U. Peggy was the impetus behind the formation of Thunder Bay Citizens Concerned about Free Trade.



Sara Williamson

Same job, family gone, more time outdoors.



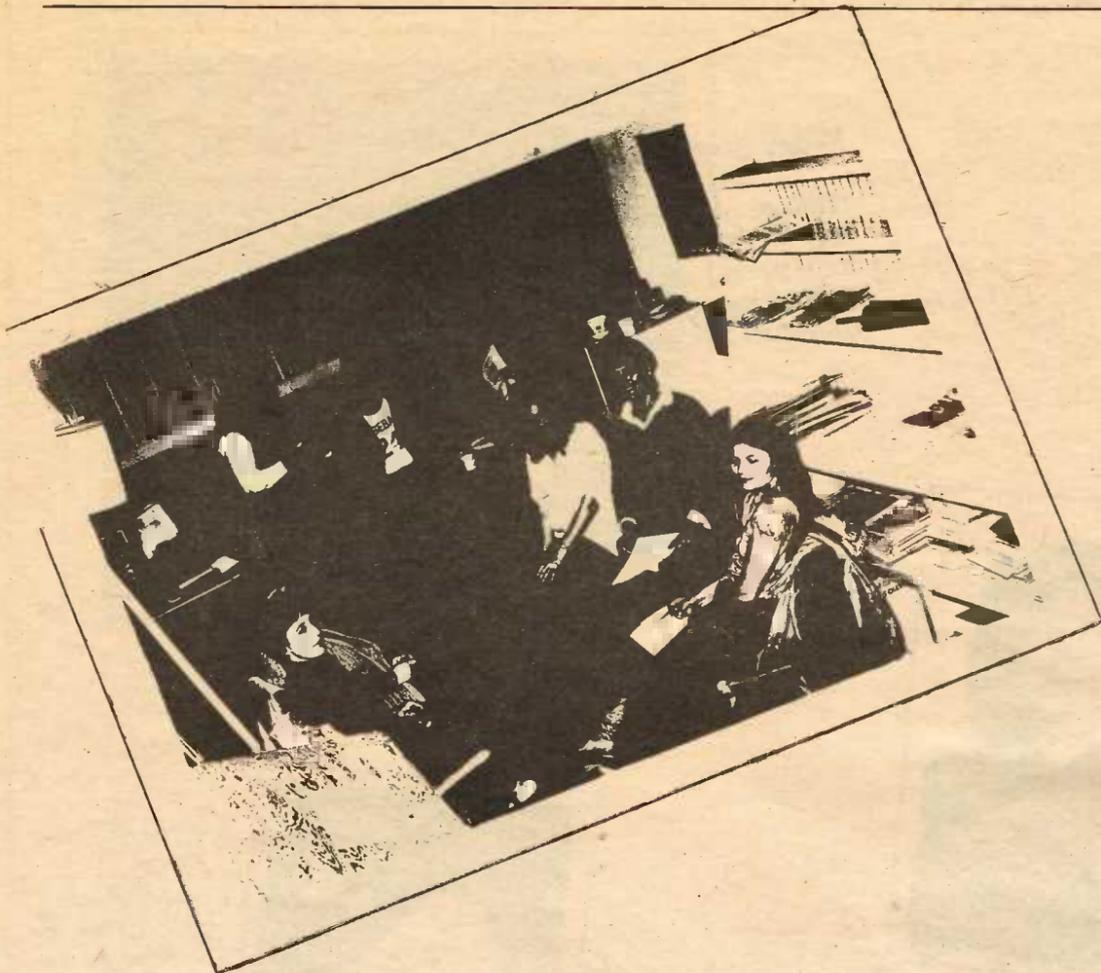
Donna Phoenix

I am an occupational health nurse with Ontario Hydro. Tanya had baby girl Branwen, April 23/90. I went to Britain with my mother, June 90. Bob and I are building underground house on East Oliver Lake Rd.

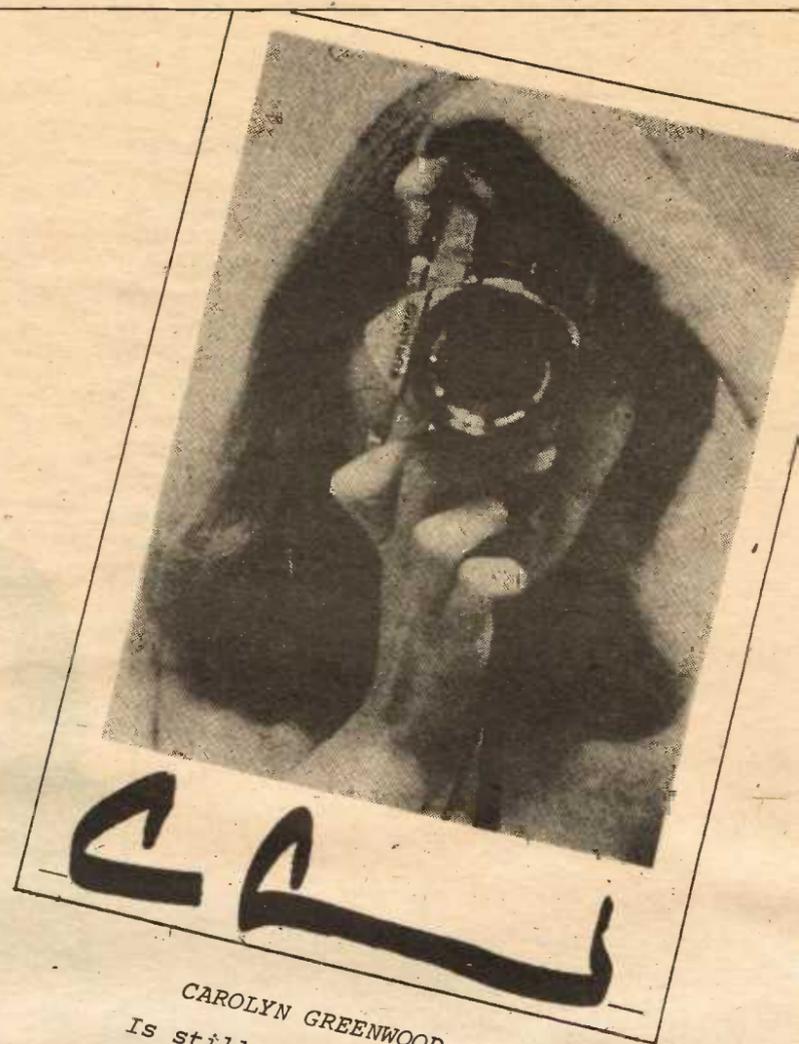
Rosalyn Taylor

I recently married and had another son, Patrick Ryan Dowhos. I am still teaching at N.E.O.P (Native Employment Opportunities Program). I haven't done too much creatively, although I still maintain that pregnancy and childbirth are creations from within.





Kathryn Brule
 She continues her adventurous life.
 Last we heard she was in Fort Resolution,
 Northwest Territory working in adult
 education.



CAROLYN GREENWOOD
 Is still taking pictures for
 the NWJ. We thank her for
 the pictures on pg.17.



Teresa Legowski
 I'm working with people with
 disabilities for Independent Living Centre.
 I'm developing my spirituality. I'm married
 with a 4 year old daughter. I travel to the
 west coast. My creative endeavours
 include: large pressed flower arrangements
 and small pressed flower cards; canoeing,
 camping and hiking with family.



Arja Lane

I write, care for children, do
 landscaping and carpentry work, part
 promotion contracts, blueberry picking
 seasonal work. I swim, play baseball
 tennis, cycle around...learning how to
 hopscotch again. Videowork and
 photography are a kind of passion with
 me, along with writing. I have proud
 callouses from guitar playing. I live with
 daughter, a lover, our dog Sisu and the
 housecat Muru, neighbours and friends
 in a big old house.

Lynn Beak

She just had baby boy, and is on
 leave of absence from the Ontario
 Women's Directorate after many years of
 work in the legal field.

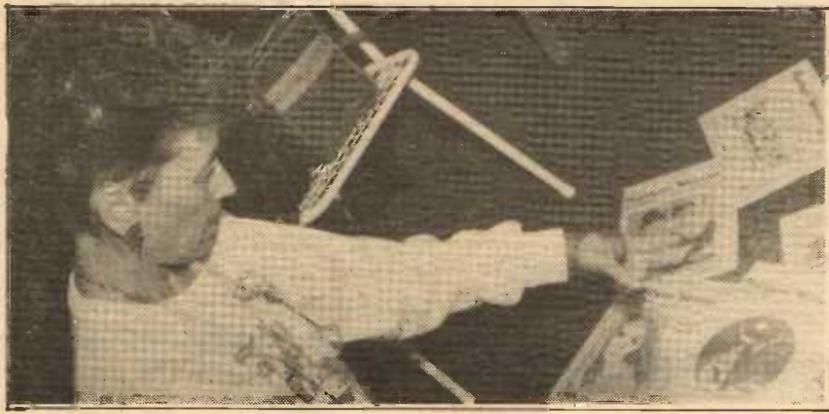


Viola Nikkila
 She is living and working in
 Toronto.

Elaine Lynch

I have 3 children, married - 2 boys
 and 1 girl. I have worked at CBQ for 6
 years both freelance and full time (currently
 freelance). Like everyone at the Journal,
 still imagine a time when I will write in a
 fiction or poetic mode, and not be so
 involved in journalistic writing. I do a lot of
 laundry. My big leisure is making sense of
 it all with other women of a similar
 orientation.

Loretta Pavan
 She has returned to university
 (Manitoba) to study Social Work.



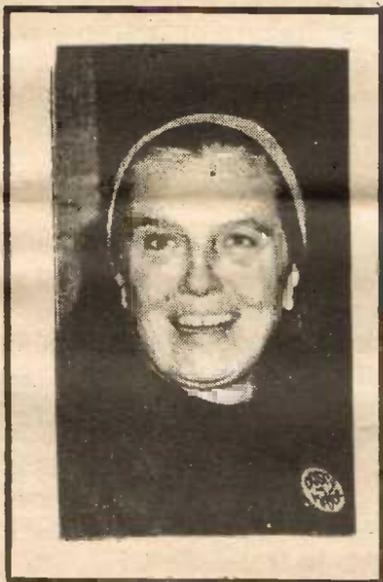
Kit Minor
 She is a "still struggling" feminist professor at Lakehead University. She has recently been involved in the formation of the Women's Studies Program and in teaching the course "Women in Social Policy". Her book, *Issumatug*, is due out in the New Year, and she is hard at work on two other books, one on Counselling, the other on Women in Social Policy in Canada.

Cindy Stolz
 She enjoys Women's Land and the clean country air. She is art director at Sportop Marketing. She enjoys recreational art, womyn's music, cooking, tea and chocolate.

Josie Wallenius
 Writing, international networking,
 performing for women.

Rae Anne Honey
 I work with women's groups in the community. It's busy, difficult at times but I love it. My children are grown...I'm free to read, begin travel (Florida in winter).

Joni Mace
 She is happy to be back home and living in "Women's Land" in South Gillies with partner Cindy, dogs, cats and horses. She makes braces and artificial limbs, and in her spare time reads, cares for animals, and makes beautiful leather crafted gifts.



Margaret Phillips
 Major volunteer involvement (beyond Bookstore and Journal) is with INTER PARES - a very special development agency working for change overseas and in Canada.



Jane Saunders
 I am a grade 8 instrumental music teacher with the Lakehead Board. I also teach piano and write music when inspired. In my spare time, I read, play sports, do crafts, enjoy Northwestern Ontario, etc.

Mary Ann Kleynedorst
 She lives "on the Farm" in South Gillies. In her off hours she rides horses, and works on the house.

Debbie Bennie
 I live with my partner Nancy, our twin 18 month old boys Justin and Daniel, our Golden Retriever Amelia, and our two cats Bentley and Shila. Giving birth was the most meaningful experience I've had next to getting to know Justin and Daniel. I'm busy trying to get my Master's in Psychology done! I wish I had more time for sewing, knitting, writing in my journal and Nancy!

Rose Pittis
 She works at Lakehead Regional Family Centre and lives in beautiful South Gillies. Rose enjoys the horses, the outdoors and peace and quiet on the Farm.

Nancy Lyons
 I am presently working with people with physical limitations, assisting them with re-entry into the workplace. Co-parent of 18 month old twin boys. Recent travel to the Michigan and Nova Scotia. Leisure..house renovations...paint...drywall...paint...change diapers...take the dog for a run...feed the cats...and more paint!

AN NDP ONTARIO - HOPE FOR WOMEN??????????

In September the unbelievable happened - A New Democratic Party was elected in Ontario.

Analysts contrive to explain this surprising event, proclaiming that voters certainly weren't supporting NDP policies, merely "protesting", teaching the Liberals a lesson. These experts are also quick to issue dire warnings that the NDP must not alienate the big business interests that have controlled Ontario's agenda.

Meanwhile, social activists (on recovering from initial shock) are also pondering what an NDP victory means. The policies established by the New Democratic Party in respect to social, environment and justice issues, have, in many instances, been viewed as politically progressive. The expectations of activists are high. Will an NDP government, in fact, implement the Party's policies? Do we dare HOPE?

The feminist community is certainly asking this question. Feminists (those who still hold faith in political systems) are encouraged by the number of women elected, and particularly encouraged by the number of women appointed as Cabinet Ministers (including Port Arthur MPP Shelley Wark-Martin). That women compose 41% of the Cabinet, and 50% of the "Inner Cabinet" is viewed positively.

Of greater importance is the recognition that a number of these women have deep roots in the feminist community; have been actively involved in grass roots women's services and issues; and most significantly, define themselves as feminists.

The expectations of women are high. Will an NDP government address the feminist agenda? Do we dare HOPE?

Given the few short weeks that the NDP has been in power it would be inappropriate to make a conclusive assessment of how women will fare in an NDP Ontario. However, it is important that on-going analysis be made. Of government actions to date we suggest there are some encouraging signs - and some serious disappointments.



THE PROMISES

During the election campaign the NDP's 'Agenda for People' made specific promises in some 30 economic and social development areas.

Promises that would have particular impact for women include:

- * Increase in the minimum wage to 60% of the average industrial wage, over four years.
- * Funding of 10,000 new non-profit child care spaces and subsidies on 10,000 spaces in each of the next two years.
- * Increase in social assistance rates.
- * Pay equity legislation that covers all women.
- * No Ontario income tax for individuals or families living at or below the poverty line.
- * Improved pregnancy and adoptive leave policies.
- * Improvement of the Employment Standards Act to increase the protection of workers facing layoffs.
- * Employment equity legislation.
- * Rent control.

And of significance to the North:

- * \$25 million per year to train Native Educators and health workers, improve community infrastructure and improve housing.
- * \$400 million over two years for a Northern Fund to promote economic development, job protection and job creation, and improved services throughout the North.



THE THRONE SPEECH

Those expecting that the NDP's first Throne Speech (delivered November 20) would be a dynamic, creative departure from traditional (vague, bland) Throne Speeches were disappointed. People anxious to see what the 'action' will be must wait for announcements from individual Ministries, as the Throne Speech outlined concepts, but avoided specifics.

Comparing the Throne Speech announcements with the above-noted 'Agenda for People' promises, we find that the government does intend to increase the minimum wage to sixty percent of the average industrial wage (over five years rather than four); will "increase protection of workers facing layoffs through a wage protection fund for workers of bankrupt companies;... support for labour adjustment committees in industries affected by dislocation; and ... stronger measures on layoff notices, severance and other adjustment issues."

Legislation will be introduced "to improve pregnancy and parental leave...". No details of the scope of such legislation were given.

The government pledged "to continue the reform of Ontario's social assistance system and address the shame of child poverty...". In late November Social Services Minister Zanana Akanda announced social assistance increases of 7% for basic allowances and 10% on housing subsidy maximums (effective Jan. 1, 1991). This announcement can only be viewed as a tiny step and will not seriously address the deplorable poverty experienced by social assistance recipients, nor will it eliminate the need for food banks - a long enunciated NDP goal.

Absent from the Throne Speech was any reference to the promise of an Ontario income tax for those below the poverty line. There was the announcement of the plan to "establish a Fair Tax Commission to assist us in the design of a tax system that is more equitable for every citizen of Ontario". No date for establishing the Commission, or an expected reporting time was given.

There was no reference to the 'Northern Fund' in the Speech. We really can't assess what this means. With six Northern MPPs in the Cabinet, Northerners expect some appropriate consideration of Northern issues. We'll take a wait and see approach on this one - we Northerners are a patient lot ... but we won't wait too long.

While committing to "make major strides in negotiating aboriginal self-government and in improving the quality of life of aboriginal peoples", the specific initiatives related to health, education and housing that would impact positively for women were not mentioned.

"Consultation" is a oft-repeated term appearing in the Throne Speech. As Northerners, who most frequently decry the lack of consultation, it may seem strange that we are wary of "consultation". While we applaud the government's stated intention to consult broadly - particularly with those most alienated from the political process - we have genuine concern that "consultation" could result in lack of action on issues that require immediate action.

INTRODUCTION TO MACROBIOTIC COOKING

8 weeks Wednesday Evenings
7:30 - 9:30
Starts January 9, 1991
Limited Enrollment

SELF-SHIATSU

8 weeks Tuesday Evenings
7:30 - 9:30
Starts January 8, 1991
Limited Enrollment

Contact Leah or Karen 344-5392



continued pg 19

AN NDP ONTARIO

A case in point. "After consultation" ... the government intends to introduce employment equity legislation. Will the business interests opposed to employment equity manipulate the consultation process to prevent early legislation? Will the government permit this?

And on pay equity, where the government "will work with employers and employees to find practical ways of achieving equitable wages for all Ontario women", we fear 'working with' anti-pay equity employers could result in many years of inaction, letting the government backtrack on their commitment to pay equity, which they many now find 'too expensive'.

A further pay equity issue - the government indicated that they would "make early progress on redressing unequal pay in areas such as child care, where grievances have been long-standing and unresolved". Of course, child care workers deserve immediate pay equity adjustments, but so do many other women. The potential divisiveness of awarding pay equity to some groups and continuing to exclude others is very troublesome.

In terms of provincial responsibility, child care is undoubtedly a most urgent issue. The meagre reference in the Throne Speech to "extend child care" is deeply distressing. In fact, the Agenda for People's promise of new spaces and new subsidies is itself inadequate. A few band-aids on the critically ill child care non-system is not sufficient. Unless this government undertakes a fundamental restructuring of child care to ensure fairness and a measure of equity, proclaiming a commitment to women and children will be nothing more than hollow rhetoric.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Bill 124: An Act to Amend the Children's Law Reform Act has been of great concern to women. Bill 124 could have laid the framework for mandatory mediation and forced unsupervised access visits thereby increasing the danger to women and children, particularly where a history of violence could not be proven.

It is with great relief that we learn that Attorney General Howard Hampton announced at the O.A.I.T.H. lobby that Bill 124 would not be proclaimed. However, the government must take the necessary further step of repealing this Bill so its threat won't hang over us in the future.

We welcome the announcement by Health Minister Evelyn Gigantes that the government will speed up the licensing of free-standing abortion clinics and cover all their costs, and that the northern health travel grants program will be extended to cover women who must travel south to gain access to abortion.

The more pressing issue though is the federal re-criminalization of abortion through Bill C43 which is currently in the Senate. While the Ontario government opposes Bill C43, and has expressed the hope that federal Minister of Justice Kim Campbell will not proclaim the legislation, they have not made the desired strong political statement that the bill would be unenforceable.

Northern Woman's Bookstore 184 Camelot St. Thunder Bay, Ontario (807) 344-7979

At a Journal meeting, summer 1983, talk turned to books - the tremendous growth of feminist theory; the wonderful literature of women writers; and wouldn't it be nice if we had access to this literature. "Let's open a feminist bookstore" someone suggested. "Oh sure" another replied "how would we run a bookstore when we can't even get the damned paper out on time".

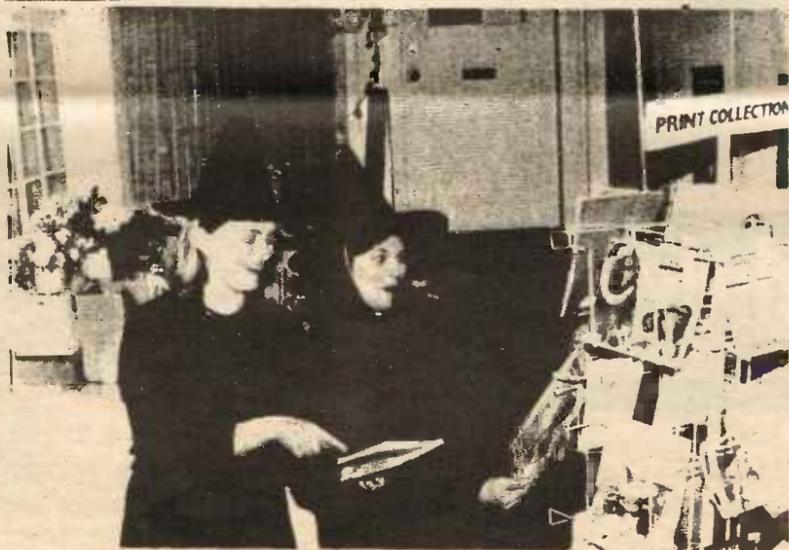
Much discussion later it was determined that the idea of a bookstore should be pursued, not as a collective effort, but as a partnership of Anna McColl and Margaret Phillips, with lots of Journal moral support.

So in December 1983, Anna and Margaret opened the store - and what did we call it - the Northern Woman's Bookstore - of course.

Journal members were the Bookstore's first customers, and most enthusiastic supporters. (Even if the silly plant almost caused a collective crisis.)

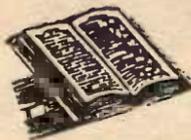
There are so many ways that Journal women have helped the Bookstore: constructing walls, building bookshelves, taking photographs, with creative contributions, staffing the store in emergencies, carting books to meetings; and continuing through the Bookstore's seven year life to support and promote women's literature.

The Bookstore and the Journal complement each other, in our goals of providing access to feminist books and to alternative journalism. The Northern Woman's Bookstore thanks the Northern Woman Journal members past and present for your support and your friendship.



JOURNAL WOMEN AT BOOKSTORE OPENING

THE BEST IN WOMEN'S WRITING



THE FUTURE

Is there HOPE for women in an NDP Ontario?

The low priority given to child care, the hesitancy to move quickly on substantive issues, the overall climate of 'caution' is very worrisome.

Will the feminists (and pro-feminism men) within the NDP caucus be able to carry forth the women's agenda? Will they be able to avoid being squeezed (demolished) by their colleagues on the right who ascribe to patriarchal values, and their colleagues of the old left who still believe women must wait until 'after the revolution'?

There are many who believe that the face of politics has changed with the appointment of eleven women to Cabinet. And the NDP women themselves firmly believe that they can make a difference.

What does this mean for feminists outside the NDP ... for grassroots feminists... transition house organizers, rape crisis workers, CARAL members, day care advocates, feminist newspaper collectives?

It will be important for feminists outside the NDP to support and nurture the feminist politicians, as we expect them to support and nurture us.

We have a bigger responsibility however. What the election of the NDP means for feminists is that we have to work harder than we've ever worked before. We must keep the feminist agenda visible and vocal ... every hour of every day.

Our advocacy must be brilliant, creative, practical and empowering. And it must be relentless.

WOMEN I HAVE KNOWN

It was a natural mistake
He thought the life, in her life
this bubbling cauldron of spirit that
tantalized his imagination and
obsessed his dreams surfaced only
at his bidding.

Some sense that he was the key
that wound her up and turned her on
Like the magic lamp he stroked her
and she shone, the genie appeared
one knee bent, whispering master
When he learned everything turned her on
he felt betrayed as though she
were less virtuous, the lascivious
woman of the old testament, winking
on the street corner, her finger crooked
Separating her from her joy wasn't
too difficult.

keeping her pregnant and under his hand
took away her song and rotted her teeth
When he left her because she was a drag
a fat slob with poor teeth
she recycled herself in less than a year
to a formidable competitor.
She lives to beat the bastard - it
turns her on.

Gert



Healthsharing

A Canadian Women's Health Quarterly

HEALTHSHARING is Canada's
only national magazine
addressing women's health issues
with a feminist perspective.

Healthsharing provides current
information, practical advice and
insights on a wide range of health
concerns affecting women.

Feature articles cover sexuality,
reproductive health, nutrition,
the environment, violence, and
much more.

Subscribe to-day!

- 1 year (4 issues) individual \$12 (personal
cheque only)
 1 year (4 issues) institutional \$24

USA add \$2
Other add \$3 (International M.O. only)

Make cheque payable to:

WOMEN HEALTHSHARING
14 Skey Lane, Toronto, Ont. M6J 3S4

CONVICTION

I believe in women
The women in aprons, the women carrying
briefcases, holding textbooks
and/or babies, stringing telephone wire,
repairing automobiles,
playing
guitars and pianos,
using artist brush and easel, writing
furiously into the night....
I believe in the women
marching, singing, chanting
or quietly standing and watching
banners held high
words illuminating our paths, our lives,
dreams and soon-to-be realities
I believe in the women of all ages, from
every walk of life, rich and poor
forming a never ending circle,
building bridges of caring and strength
gathering all people together
to make this world
an infinitely better place in which to live.

Lynette Rich, 1982

AS I SEE IT

From the privileged position where I ruminate
upon the past, percolate in the present and
speculate on the future, I am satisfied that we
have raised the consciousness of both men
and women internationally. If you believe as
I do that conscious thought is the tool of
evolution then the world must give credit
where credit is due to Feminism, woman's
revolt through the ages against man's
domination of thought and practice.

For the past 25 years it has been a time of
preparation for a future harvest, clearing the
ground for new thought processes, picking
the stones, cutting the brush that has
diminished our vision and crushed our spirits,
and sowing the good seeds of self respect.
We are changing the landscape of
possibilities for the whole human family - that
is gender balancing in itself.

There is always a tendency to cut the corn
before it is ripe, to bring in the sheaves in the
green and to seed before the soil is
cultivated because we have waited so long
and need so passionately to leave our
woman's imprint on this male driven, male
ordered period of our history.

Feminism gave some of us permission to
examine in the light of our own experience
all supposed truth as imposed on our
consciousness by Patriarchal religions and
other oppressive structures, gave us
permission to trust our own gut feelings and
begin to act in our interest and that of other
women, an inner knowing that choices were
ours to make and ours to act on. This is a
life changer, a view enlarger and out of it
come the visions to fill the vacuum created
by the trash of old think we have discarded.

My truth is my own truth, I write it, I speak it,
I live it, my self esteem depends on it, I am
a sower of heretical thought, feminism
without dogma or apology or ceasing. It is
taking root in ways we cannot foresee, will
bear fruit we cannot imagine, even the storm
troopers of the old way, the realistic, active
equal for lifers will not subvert the winds of
change.

Gert

We have created a general unrest in this
male world, the cauldron of life is at the boil
continually refining the tenets we have taken
for granted if we take our eyes off the prize
and allow those of us who are the spinners
and sowers of the new reality to lose our
clarity of purpose and crumble into pettiness
of personal conflicts, lose our sharp edge of
anger at injustice and give up that spirit of
optimism that fuelled us in the beginning and
is so needed for the future, we will be stalled.
There is a great deal to do to build that
confidence and passion that kick started us
into this great adventure. I wish I could pass
along the pure joy I feel when one woman
takes her place in this world as a contender
for the rights of all. Pat Broder, congress
woman on Roe versus Wade speaking out
"rescind this law and your jails will not be big
enough to hold us all. Your streets will not
be safe." Can we do less?

The truth is all, is in process, keeping the
communication current, this discussion alive
is in the hands of the spinners. We have told
the world what turns us off internationally,
nationally, provincially and civically, we are
out of order and out of control. What more
do we need to make us radiantly happy,
what can I say?

What we need is a break from the tyranny of
impatience, a little more dependence on the
natural spirit of women to defy authority,
demyth religion, delay absorption and
generally seek her own path to liberation.
She is being felt in the culture today, taking
back her spiritual energy from religion, taking
back her dependence on daddy, taking back
her power to decide, putting the emphasis
where it belongs - on her potential for
change.

Year Poetry

SAVING GRACE

out of pace
with the world . . .
in space of my own
not alone
just not a clone
born to beat time
to death

out of pace
with the world . . .
without the big race
there is no reason to try,
there are reasons for why

hear my cry of resistance
my yell of rebellion

Arja Lane



OUR SISTERHOOD

While living in London, Ontario in the summer of 1987, I met a woman named Nancy Vanderburgh who had ridden her mountain bike from Portland, Oregon to Boston en route to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. We soon became aware of our common interest in music. I was most intrigued in a newly formed group of which she was a member, the Portland Lesbian Choir. A funny anecdote goes like this . . . Nancy was using her office photocopier to copy music as a favour to the group (an illegal activity at the best of times!) when she was approached by a co-worker who said "Oh, are you in a choir?" Nancy replied "Yes, the Portland Lesbian Choir." The woman seemed a little stunned but managed to say "Wow, no men, eh?"

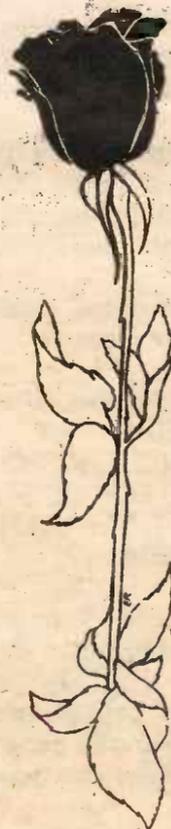
I enjoyed that story a great deal and as we regaled each other with similar stories, I decided that my contribution to the new choir could be a 'theme song.' I composed "Our Sisterhood" in the style of "Every Woman," a Teresa Trull classic. The choir has since performed it many times in concert, including their set at GALA III (a Canadian - American Gay/Lesbian Choral Festival). I had an ad hoc choir which performed "Our Sisterhood" at the L.S.W.A.G (London Status of Women Action Group) 10th Anniversary Potluck in London, 1988. The lyrics are, I hope, inspirational. Maybe someday you will hear the piece sung by a women's choir. It is a powerful experience.

MEDITATION

I seek to know
And in knowing, to understand.
This knowledge is gained
Through awareness
Of myself
And in so knowing,
Of others.
While we are so different,
We are so much the same
That in unity
We join peacefully
To form a life force that joins
The unified field.

I celebrate the knowledge that is nature
That is within us all
As nature's creatures.
I celebrate the knowledge of cells,
Of their simplicity
That becomes so complex
In our attempts
To translate in order to understand.
My only duty is to seek nature's beauty
Without translation,
To seek her clarity
And her truth,
And in so seeking,
Become engaged in a journey,
A process of enlightenment
A process of knowing
Of feeling
Of becoming
Of being.

Joyce Ann Michalchuk



Verse 1:

For too long
Our voices have been silent
We were living in the dark
We knew nothing of our power
Then we felt the spark!

The spark burst into flame
The flame burst into light
And now we know
That our voices are our right!

Chorus:

We will sing out loud
We will sing out proud
For our strength
For our freedom
For our Sisterhood

We will sing our song
Won't you sing along?

Verse 2:

Now our voices
They speak of love
They sing of battles we have tried
Of the struggles yet to come
And they sing of pride!

Of pride for what we are
Of pride what we'll be
Our fears have kept us bound
Now our spirit sets us free!

Jane

TO THE NORTHERN WOMAN JOURNAL AND THE COLLECTIVE WOMEN WHO
HAVE PRESERVED ITS PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

Seventeen years of work and pride,
Documenting women's lives,
For: About: Produced by women,
Where we are, Where we've been.

Recording women's herstory,
Issues, stories, poetry,
Articles, feminist reviews,
Women's plans, events and news.

Sharing experience and thought,
Exposing myths which we were taught.
Providing forum for women's voices,
Affirming women's worth and choices.

Writing, editing, volunteer hours,
Graphics, layouts, volunteer dollars.
Struggling to get to print on time,
Feminists working side by side.

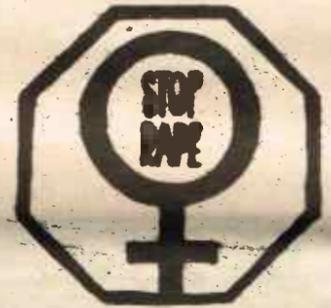
A lesson each of us should heed,
The collective effort can succeed,
Demonstrated proof to all,
We applaud the Northern Woman Journal.

THANK YOU FOR BROADENING OUR HORIZONS, CHALLENGING OUR
THINKING, AND FOR BEING AN INVALUABLE LINK IN THE
NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN'S NETWORK.

The Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council.



Ma-nee Davis designed the cover for our last issue, Volume 12 No. 4. We apologize for not crediting her.



U-TURN FOR CHILD CARE

The crisis in child care continues as families struggle, unsuccessful to find accessible, affordable, comprehensive quality child care.

Recommendations recently made by the Ontario Coalition of Better Child Care would begin to turn this around and develop an adequate child care system in Ontario.

The key elements of the Coalition 'U-Turn for Child Care' include:

EACH CHILD CARE PROGRAM WILL BE FULLY FUNDED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COST RECOVERY THROUGH A SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM.

- * Child care programs will no longer operate on a fee-for-service basis.
- * All non-profit child care programs will become provincially funded services similar to other child welfare and education programs.
- * Child care programs will be directly funded based on annual budgets approved by the provincial government in accordance with provincial guidelines.

- * Recovery of costs from parents and other levels of government will be the responsibility of the provincial government.

THE PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE SYSTEM WILL BE NON-PROFIT

- * All programs will be operated by non-profit corporations, municipalities or Indian bands.
- * Existing for-profit programs could become part of the provincial child care system by conversion to non-profit status; those not choosing to convert will continue as they are currently.

THE PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE SYSTEM WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE

- * A range of regulated services will be provided, including full day group child care, half-day and part-time programs, private home day care, before- and after-school programs, parent-child resource centres, and services for shift workers and seasonal workers.

The Coalition presented the position to the new NDP government at a Lobby in Early November. The government called the paper a 'practical' document and promised to study it.



2-78-85



THE DANGEROUS STRUGGLE

by Josephine Mandamin

How do you explain something that transcends all time, space, and energies of the earth? How can the questions of Oka be answered in one sentence? It is not easy to explain what flows through your veins. The blood lines that are intermingled with Mother Earth are the same energy and blood that runs through our Native blood.

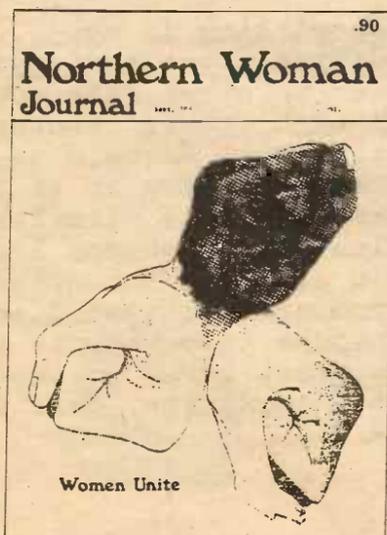
The Oka standoff could have been averted had the politicians listened seriously to the Mohawks' request for negotiations, six months prior to the occurrence. In a show of police and army strength, the government portrayed the Native people as criminals for the whole country to frown on. Meanwhile, Native people were gaining a momentum of support from Canadians in all walks of life, showing the government, the will of Canadians to stand beside each other in time of great strain.

The supporters who went to Oka represented men, women and children from across North America, in all four directions. Sacred pipes of prayers, and Elders from these four directions were gathered at the barricades where there were continuous spiritual ceremonies conducted daily for strength and encouragement for the families behind the barricades. This show of unity has been felt by all peoples throughout the world as words of support came through the messengers.

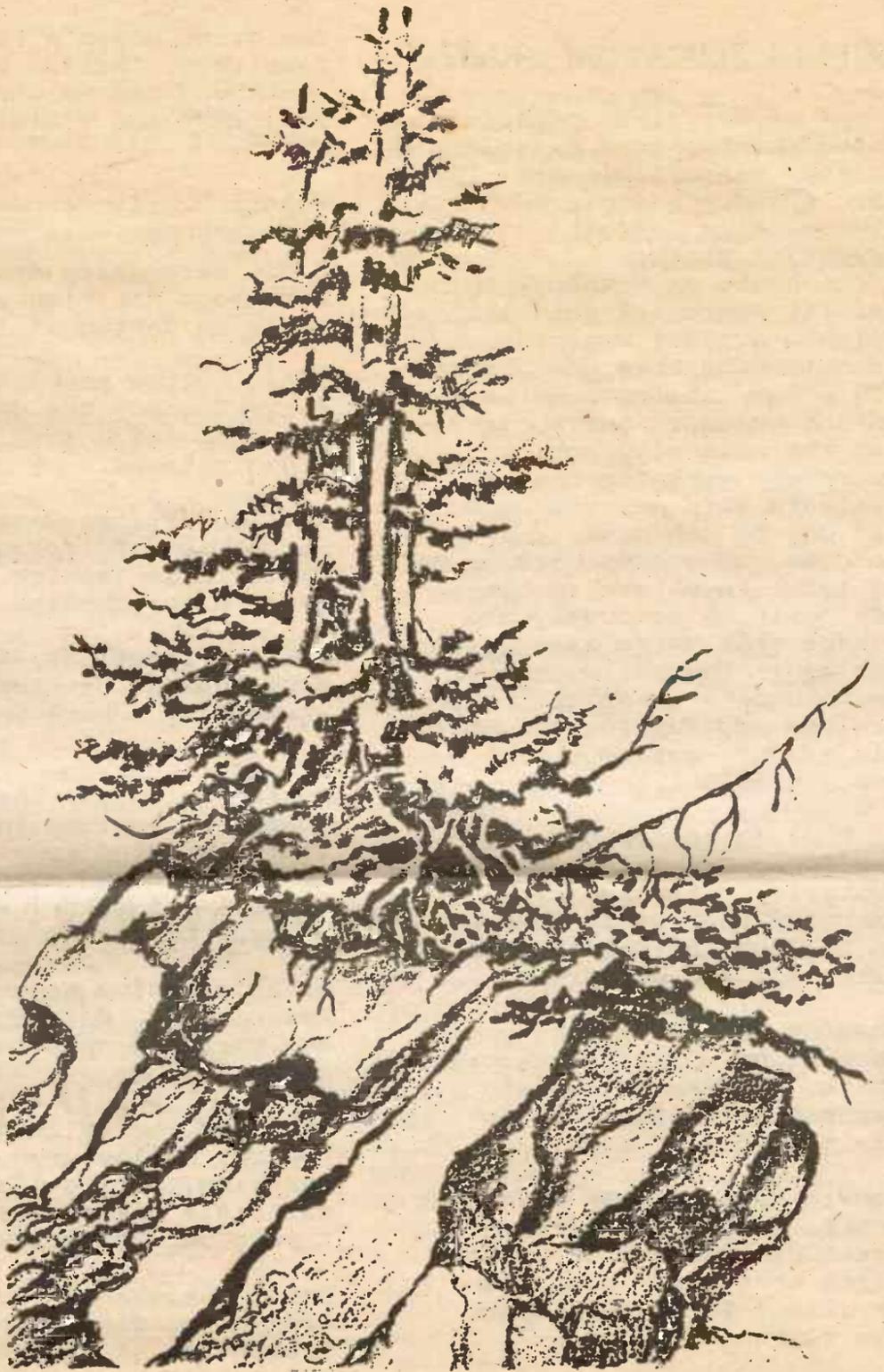
It seemed that time stood still as Native people waited and prepared: for the moment in history, for the bloodshed of their Native brothers and sisters, for the ghost dance. The power of the Elders' ceremonies will never be forgotten, as strange occurrences were reported by participants in their circles. Time, Space, and Earth energies are powerful especially when the pulse of Native blood runs with her energies. We knew then that events would not allow for the ghost dancers to dance their last dance. Not this time.

How can this feeling of unity with the earth and Native people be explained? Some things cannot be explained with words. Our children know and understand without explanation; it runs in their veins. They are part of the earth. We are all a part of the earth. Therefore, we all need to protect her, for giving us her gifts of food, water, air and fire. This is our role.

MEGWETCH!



"CONGRATULATIONS to members of the Northern Woman Journal collective on seventeen years of thoughtful and stimulating dialogue on women's issues."
from LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S STUDIES GROUP



TAPESTRY

Silence

catch the motion of carousels turning,
touch the shadows of beach fires burning,
hear the call on the shore of the lake
lone scavenger searching,
crying out for a mate.
feel the stillness of night
with relief from the day,
count the stars in the sky
as they revolve on their way.
chanting waves lullaby the sea
comforting sounds
floating for free.
the coolness of sand
relieved of its warmth
now feeling the dew
damp in the hand.
see the moon and catch its glow
lighting the sea as her essence flows,
darkness is mine until the dawn,
silence is mine,
i love the sound.



Viola



Ontario Women's
Directorate

Direction générale
de la condition
féminine de l'Ontario

WIFE ASSAULT

PUBLIC EDUCATION GRANTS

As one of her first official announcements, Anne Swarbrick, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, declared November Wife Assault Prevention Month.

In the house on November 26, Minister Swarbrick said that violence against women is recognized by this government as a power imbalance between men and women in our society. When the community and government work together to eliminate wife assault much more can be achieved. Agencies and groups working at the local level are in the best position to convey the message that "Wife Assault is a Crime". The following Northern Ontario groups have received OWD funding to get this message out to their communities.

A.C.F.O. (Association Canadienne-Francaise de l'Ontario), Timmins - community theatre in French and English; bilingual billboards and posters.

Canadian Mental Health Association - Family Resource Centre, Matheson - annual community film festival on wife assault.

Chadwic Home, Family Resource Centre, Wawa - information sheets distributed to post office boxes, schools, and libraries; local newspaper advertisements.

Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, Sioux Lookout - workshops to include police, hospital workers, chiefs and social workers.

Northshore Family Resource Centre, Marathon - one day workshop for police and public.

Rainy River District Family Violence Network, Fort Frances - billboard.

Thunder Bay Co-Ordinating Committee Against Family Violence, Thunder Bay - handbook

Women in Crisis Sioux/Hudson/North, Sioux Lookout - one-day workshop for assaulted women.

Beendigen Inc./Native Women's Crisis Home, Thunder Bay - easy-to-read pamphlets for native communities.

Geraldton Family Resource Centre, Geraldton - performances by Family Life Theatre Group.

Hoshizaki House, Dryden - bus displays; display board; buttons; radio/newspaper ads.

Immigrant Women's Planning Committee, Thunder Bay - workshops for volunteer immigrant and visible minority women.

Kenora Family Resource Centre - workshops; billboards.

Ecole Secondaire de Hearst - workshops for high school girls on dating violence.

Esprit Place Resource Centre, Parry Sound - one day legal workshop for community organizations.

Family Services Centre, Sault St. Marie - performances by Family Life Theatre Group in seven high schools.

Habitat Interlude, Kapuskasing - billboards developed by elementary school students.

Manitoulin Haven House/Manitoulin Interagency Committee Against Family Violence, Mindemoya - one-day workshop including performance by native theatre group with Company of Sirens.

Ontario Native Women's Association, Calstock - one-day workshop open to the community.

Pavilion Family Resource Centre, Haileybury - radio campaign; public transit sign; materials distributed throughout community.

South Timiskaming Co-Ordinating Committee for the Prevention of Wife Assault, Haileybury - pamphlet; radio advertising campaign.

A.E.F.O. (Association des Enseignants et des Enseignantes Franco-Ontariens) Thunder Bay - theatre production for francophone women and high school students.



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RESOURCE CENTRE

Services/Funding for Adult Incest Survivors within Ontario; A report for the Ontario Women's Directorate by Connie Guberman, December 1989.

The Healing Way: Adult Recovery from Childhood Sexual Abuse; Kristin A. Kunzman, 1990.

Positive and gentle guide to recovery from childhood sexual abuse with special emphasis on its relationship to alcoholism.

Social Movements/Social Change: The Politics and Practice of Organizing; Society for Socialist Studies, 1988. This book goes beyond abstract debates about the relevance of new movements to socialism by providing first-hand stories of organizing. Subjects discussed include disabled women, labour and ecology, schooling, peace, self-help, childcare, the March 8th coalition, gay politics, the campaign for free-standing abortion clinics, visible minority women, and the culture of resistance.

The Infertility Dilemma: Reproductive Technologies and Prevention; Heather Bryant, Department of Community Health Services, 1990.

Hidden in the Household: Women's Domestic Labour under Capitalism; The Women's Press, 1980.

THANK YOU

WOMEN'S GROUPS

who found time in your hectic schedules to meet with Joan Andrew new director of Policy and Research Branch. Special thanks to groups whose time was rescheduled to compensate for Northern travel conditions....Joan's flight to and over Thunder Bay and late return.


Women working in non-traditional occupations met on November 26th to talk with each other. Another meeting will be held on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 at 4:30** at the Ontario Women's Directorate Office, 107C Johnson Avenue to begin planning a conference. If you are interested and want to become involved, if you have great ideas or just want more information, call 345-6084.

STATUS OF WOMEN REPORT

Remember the Status of Women Report? Maybe only those of us over 40 do. But for the budding Canadian feminist movement of the early 1970s the Report was an important document.

After three years of research and considerable input (public hearings, written submissions) from Canadian women, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women presented their report on September 28, 1970. The Report's 167 recommendations addressed many issues - economics, education, health, poverty, legal, participation in public life. As this was a government appointed Royal Commission report, the recommendations received much public attention, and many promises of government action. Canadian women were hopeful that our concerns would be taken seriously.

Twenty years later it is harder to be hopeful.

Witness:

- the escalation of violence against women (in its many forms);
- legislation to re-criminalize abortion (passed by the House of Commons but still before the Senate);
- funding cuts to (Secretary of State) Women's Programs and a multitude of community women's organizations;
- the wage gap (women's earnings 65% of male earnings);
- the feminization of poverty, and on and on.

A document 'TWENTY YEARS LATER', provided by MP Dawn Black, NDP Status of Women critic, offers an assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. This analysis reveals that many of the Report's major recommendations have not been implemented; others only partially addressed; some implemented in theory, but not in practice, while many of the fully implemented recommendations were the "easiest" (least likely to affect the status quo??)

So we see implementation of recommendations such as "the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act be amended so that its provisions will be the same for male and female contributors", and "that the federal government change its passport application forms in order to indicate that a married woman may obtain her passport either in her maiden surname or in the surname of her husband". Useful changes for the affected individuals no doubt, but hardly likely to impact the power imbalance.

More problematic are the "theoretically" adopted recommendations that appear to have addressed inequities but in fact have not achieved their goals. For example, the recommendation that "the Female Employees Equal Pay Act be amended to apply to all employees of the Government of Canada."

The Canadian Human Rights Act came into effect in 1978, yet in 1988 the Human Rights Commission noted that "administrative delay and bureaucratic infighting remain more the hallmark of the program thus far than any genuine move toward pay equity". As recently as January 1990 the federal government compensated for underpaid employees (secretaries, data processors and clerks). However, in the view of the affected union the compensation is between one quarter and one third of what the women are owed, thus complaints have been filed, and no settlement yet reached.

Understanding that twelve years after the Act was passed its intent is still not enforced demonstrates the lack of commitment to fundamental change that still exists.

The continued discrimination faced by immigrant women in respect to language training programs, places "triple burden" on immigrant women. Why has there been so little action on the Royal Commission's recommendations regarding immigrant women?

The lack of consideration of the needs of women prisoners is a national disgrace. Most women offenders are victims/survivors of abuse and need supportive, not punitive measures. In 1970, the Royal Commission recommended the closure of the Kingston Women's Prison. At least eight subsequent studies have reiterated this recommendation. Recently the government indicated the prison will close by 1994. Twenty-four years to achieve an obvious solution is hardly defensible!

20 YEARS LATER

In some instances forward looking recommendations not only haven't been implemented, but government action has worsened the problem. Family allowances have not increased, rather they have been indexed. Enhancement of birth control information has not occurred, rather funding to Planned Parenthood has been consistently reduced since 1977.

Financial support to community women's groups is also increasingly being eroded. In 1990 the federal government tried to impose 100% funding cuts to women's centres. Effective protests from women across the country reversed this decision, but for one year only, and in a few brief months the women's centres funding crisis will again be upon us.

It is instructive to note that the major recommendations of the Royal Commission have not been enacted. We do not have a national child care program. We do not have pensions for homemakers. (Unless its stalls in the Senate) we shall soon see a re-criminalization of abortion.

We must understand, and give continuing analysis to the realization that the recommendations that have not been implemented are those that would address the systemic discrimination and misogyny faced by women, the recommendations that would impact significant numbers of Canadian women.

The report of the Royal Commission was a stepping stone which brought women's issues into the public domain. Twenty years later we find that the substantive changes women need have not been addressed. We also find a systemic backlash that threatens our very modest gains. We do not need another Royal Commission to tell us what the problems are. We know the problems. We need action.

And we need the energy to continuously place the feminist agenda out front ... loud and clear.

(The report TWENTY YEARS LATER which assesses and discusses the status of each of the Royal Commission's 167 recommendations may be obtained from the office of Dawn Black MP, NDP Status of Women critic, House of Commons, Ottawa.

Northern Woman
Journal

REFLECTING

RECOLLECTING

RE-COLLECT-ING



Music composed/arranged for
special occasions . . .

Jane Saunders

Jane Saunders 807 475 9147

Update

CROSS CULTURAL FORUM ON INCEST/CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: SURVIVORS' PERSPECTIVES

Women's Place, Kenora sponsored a cross cultural forum on the issue of incest and child sexual abuse from the perspective of survivors. The forum took place May 10th at Inn of the Woods with approximately 130 people participating. People attended from Fort Frances, Lac LaCroix, Dryden, most reserves within the Treaty 3 area, and from Kenora. There was representation from most service agencies including mental health workers, police, alcohol counsellors, community health reps, crown attorney's office and other groups and individuals working on the issue.

The purpose of the forum was to enable service providers to hear the perspective of and experience of survivors as a basis for discussion of a community response to the problem.

Presenters were Brenda Daily, co-author of 'The Spirit Weeps: Characteristics and Dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse with a Native Perspective', and Julie Lee, executive director of Survival Through Friendship House in Goderich and the first woman in Canada, as an adult, to have her stepfather charged with his sexual abuse of her as a child.

Brenda provided a historical perspective of the problem of child sexual abuse in native communities and discussed responses to the problem, barriers to treatment and the inter-relationship of violence and substance abuse.

Julie presented a feminist analysis of child sexual abuse and discussed models of service delivery from the perspectives of survivor and therapist.

Both women delivered very personal and powerful presentations and the response from participants has been positive and encouraging.

Friday the 11th was set aside for the individuals, groups and agencies to meet separately with the resource people to discuss their own concerns. This proved to be very successful and was very much appreciated by everyone who met with Brenda and Julie.

There are about 25 individuals interested in meeting again and it is our hope that this will provide agencies/bands and survivors of abuse an opportunity for networking and discussion of follow up.

WOMEN'S PLACE KENORA

Reprinted from **Women's Place Kenora** November 1990

When Women's Place Kenora moved into our newly acquired home in November of 1987, we wondered how we would ever fill all the space. Well, in no time at all, we have found ourselves short of space - for our expanding library, the additional staff for the Kenora Sexual Assault Centre, for the numbers of women attending special events, and for the other women's groups now using our Centre for meetings, etc.

In March, 1990 we presented a proposal to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, to construct an addition to our building. This addition will provide us with a large meeting room which can accommodate up to 50 people. We received notification of the approval of our Grant in October and Zeke's Carpentry was contracted to carry out the construction. The addition will also provide wheelchair accessibility to our Centre.

The walls and the roof are up and there is hammering and sawing and measuring going on, and at this rate, the room should be available for use in December.

During their annual meeting September 30, 1990, ONWA elected their 16 board members.

Board of Directors

- Corinne Nabigon, president
- Leona Nahwegahbow, 1st vice president
- Michele Solomon, 2nd vice-president
- Sue Anderson, secretary
- Dorothy Wynne, treasurer

Northern region Board members

- Agnes Bachman
- Donna Leckner
- Willie Flamand
- Josie Necan

Western region Board member

- Carol T. Desmoulin
- Connie Devall

Eastern region Board member

- Andrea McGraw
- Alice Souliere

Southern region Board member

- Suzi Anderson
- Nora Rhineland
- Joan Simcoe

INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRES IN ONTARIO

Reprinted from **Women's Place Kenora** November 1990

In May of 1990, the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres and the Ministry of the Solicitor General arrived at an agreement regarding appropriate funding for Sexual Assault Centres in Ontario. The welcome increase in funding has allowed the Kenora Sexual Assault Centre to hire two and one-half staff persons. Bernice Connell and Charlotte Holm are Co-ordinators, and Brenda Duncan is our part-time bookkeeper.

For the first time in fourteen years, we have been able to set up a yearly budget and to actually engage in planning of our program and activities rather than just responding on a crisis basis.

The funding requirements have necessitated the incorporation of the Sexual Assault Centre as a separate entity from Women's Place Kenora, which became an accomplished fact in September of 1990. Many thanks to the Kenora Community Legal Clinic, which assisted us in this effort.

We appreciate the efforts of the Negotiating Committee of the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres who have represented us so well and worked very hard on behalf of all R.C.C.'s in Ontario, and a number of staff within the Ministry of the Solicitor General for strong support. As always, we also want to express appreciation to the many women who have staffed our Crisis Line and served on our Board over the years, and to the individuals and organizations who have supported us in many ways.

THE THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY AND THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA PRESENT

A FESTIVAL OF FEMINIST FILMS works by and about women

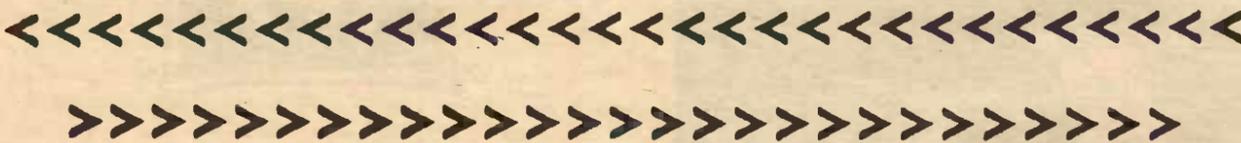
Friday, January 11, 1991 8pm at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery

Five Feminist Minutes - a collection of sixteen eclectic five-minute films directed by female artists from across the country. Five Feminist Minutes spans all film genres, from animation to documentary. Including:

New Shoes by Ann Marie Fleming. A self-referential film that also deals with the exploitative and manipulative nature of documentary filmmaking, and the arbitrary limits this medium imposes on its subjects.

We're Talking Vulva by Shawn Dempsey. A rock video with a life-sized dancing, rapping vulva shopping for groceries, working on a construction site and tobogganing in the snow.

Rhea by Angele Gagnon. A film that examines the definitions of womyn on earth as providers of life - definition imposed on them by a patriarchal society.



OUR LITERATURE MUST BE VISIONARY,
A LITERATURE OF CHANGE THAT EXAMINES
ALL ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES

I Am

I am a deep river
bedded on rock
who knows what
subterranean streams
have kept me undiminished
what magic filters
of the soul still -
keeps me loving
Infinite and Indestructable
I hold the seed
of the world
in my rebellious Belly
only I know
the strength of the destroyer
that sleeps in my currents
only I know how
much I would risk
for a-calculated Inch.

written by Gert Beadle
(for the International Women's Year
Planning Seminar, November 1974)

rose bowl world
a manic-depressive existence
of petals
and thorns
submerged in societal waters
that give life
as they threaten
to drown.

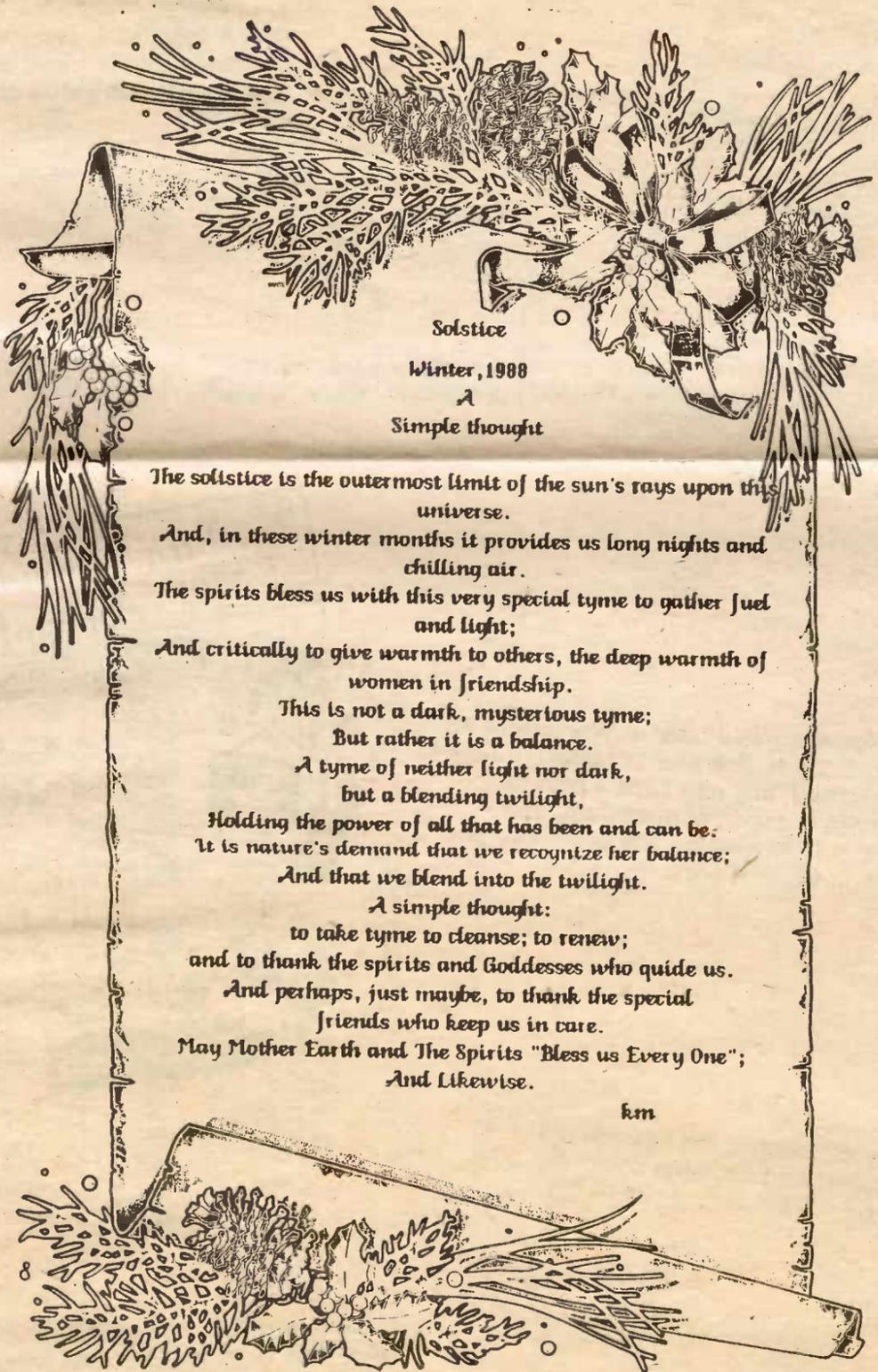
viola nikkila



Catfight

We live in a land, social
net from which we draw
The cat that fights
The cat that skulks
And the cat removed of claw

Joyce Michalchuk 1979



Solstice

Winter, 1988

A

Simple thought

The solstice is the outermost limit of the sun's rays upon this universe.

And, in these winter months it provides us long nights and chilling air.

The spirits bless us with this very special tyme to gather fuel and light;

And critically to give warmth to others, the deep warmth of women in friendship.

This is not a dark, mysterious tyme;
But rather it is a balance.

A tyme of neither light nor dark,
but a blending twilight,

Holding the power of all that has been and can be.
It is nature's demand that we recognize her balance;

And that we blend into the twilight.

A simple thought:

to take tyme to cleanse; to renew;
and to thank the spirits and Goddesses who guide us.

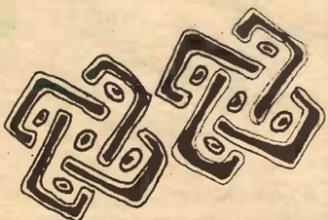
And perhaps, just maybe, to thank the special
friends who keep us in care.

May Mother Earth and The Spirits "Bless us Every One";
And Likewise.

km

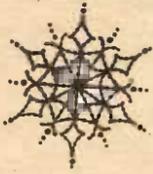
Happy Solstice

The from
Northern Woman Journal



OUR COMMENTS ABOUT THE NORTHERN

WOMAN JOURNAL...



... I can speak only to the future and pledge my support for the kind of free thinking that justifies any feminist publication.

... the Journal is doing a great job. In future issues perhaps it would be interesting to reprint articles written by past collective members with name and date of original printing. It might also be discouraging if there has been no progress on that issue.



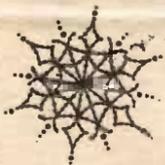
... The Journal is an exciting sometimes sobering publication. To continue we need more women to be part of it...writing, illustrations, yes, even paste up.

... I think we should feel free to print more radical material in order to further challenge "our readers" to examine their relationship with reality and mainstream life.

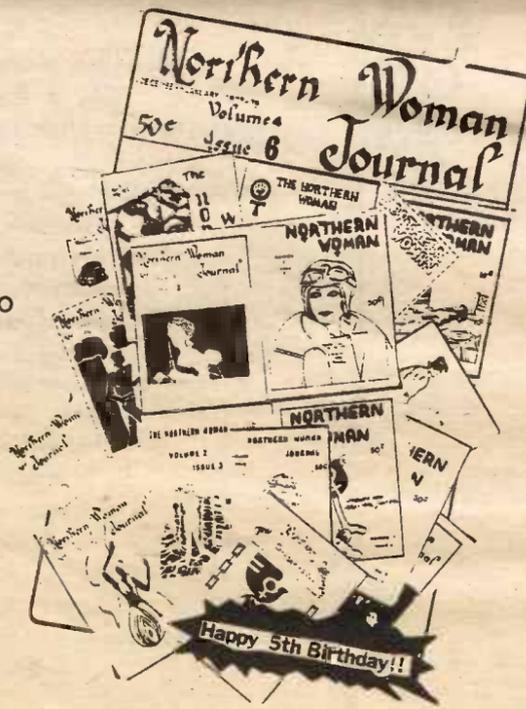


... others go under, others rely on outside money. The journal is pretty unique. So is Margaret.

... I hope you keep working as a collective, and I look forward to seeing you in print for the next 20 years at least.



... I feel there has been a new spirit born here at the N.W.J. and I'm glad I'm here to celebrate in this new birth. I plan to exercise a strong commitment, and contribute to keeping this spirit alive and helping watch it grow.



... the Journal seems to have lost its vision, its spunk, its attention to small things like spelling. I don't know the purpose of the Journal now. It drags its feet and struggles to be published, but the end result hardly seems worth the effort! Either a Renaissance or demise is in order.

... I enjoy the people, the process and the commitment! And oh, what could the Journal be if there were more of us?

... I am proud of you.



... the journal has seen many changes but I think this is good. Evolution should be part of revolution. Keep the blood flowing and stay alive!



... the Journal is of enormous importance in my life. I'll do almost anything to keep her alive.

... it is amazing that it's still there - there were times (years ago) that it seemed it would not be around for long - I guess there are a few to pass on the flame to. Good work!

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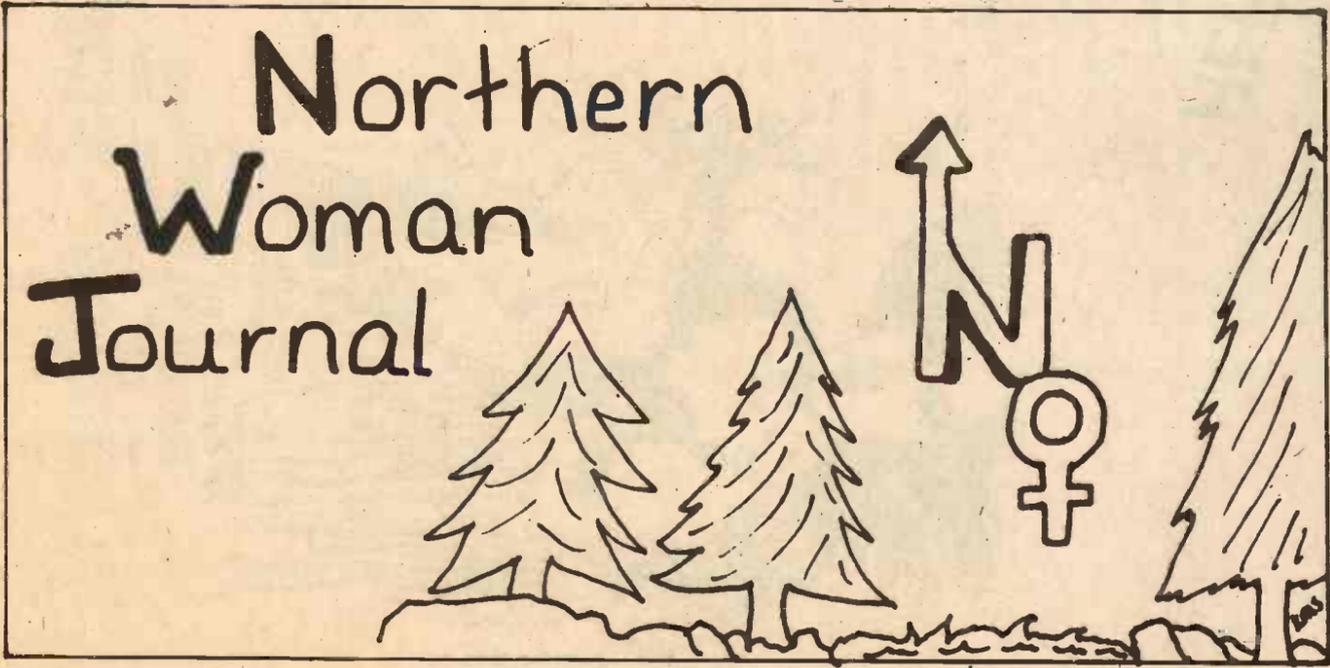
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