



WOMEN'S BUILDING OF VICTORIA SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number 1.

March 5, 1981

P.O. Box 5264, Station B, Victoria, B.C.

Hello workers and supporters!

This is the first issue of a bimonthly newsletter to keep you informed (and enthusiastic) about the state of the art in creating a Women's Building in Victoria.

Our Constitution has been passed by the women at a Planning and Advisory Meeting and is now in the hands of the provincial authorities. We foresee no difficulties in obtaining approval. The next step to becoming an official society is tackling the federal bureaucracy who will provide us with a tax-deductible number -- and then it's gung ho with fundraising which will make a home for Victoria women a concrete, money-in-the-bank reality!

Our broad base of support, including women of all ages and backgrounds, is continuing, and it is essential that it does continue! Of course we want and need all the working energy we can muster, but we need not only carpenters and bricklayers but cheering multitudes to impress upon the powers that be that a Women's Building is a dream held by masses of Victorian women. In this case a name on a membership list does have weight and meaning. Your support must be present as we move into the public eye with our fundraising campaign. We hope you can see that now is a critical phase for the Women's Building.

We envision a building that will fulfill the needs of every woman, and to that end we have been careful about our process, trying to ensure that every woman has input. Consequently, to some it might seem that we are working slowly -- but we want to emphasize that that is the nature of the collective process. Solidarity and confidence in each other are essential to the successful working of the building when it becomes a reality, and we want to guard that every step of the way.

Some women have been feeling that they haven't got specific tasks to do and hence their interest is waning. We want you to know that the dedicated drones on the committees are doing their best to change that. The working committees remain:-  
Legal Committee - contact Susan Moger, 592-4215  
Membership Committee - contact Bette Herbert, 479-2266  
Space Committee - contact Madelaine Shields, 598-4175  
Funding Committee - contact Jackei Sellgern, 598-5957  
Publicity Committee - contact Bet McMurchy, 598-7535

In the fall a group of us were interviewed on Channel 10, and in February the Times-Colonist ran a rather lengthy article outlining who we are and what we hope to achieve. Also the March 4 issue of Monday is running an article on International Women's Day, with a blurb on the Women's Building concept and a photo of Windemere House, home of the old Alexandra Club. Women's Building notepaper and buttons have been made and are on sale at Everywomans Books. We are having 1,000 brochures printed for free by a group of Vancouver women who have a government grant to print flyers and brochures for B.C. women's groups. Our public exposure is increasing and we are beginning to receive invitations to speak to groups in the community.

The Women's Building Society was involved in the organizing of this year's International Women's Day and undertook to arrange the bus tour of homes of famous Victoria women. We are also holding a booth there.

Over....

At the January 24 Planning and Advisory Meeting a task force was formed to look for interim office space for the society. We envision a small space to keep files, post a bulletin board and hold small meetings. We hope to get this space for free(?) or as little as possible (the rent must be under \$100). If you have any information, please contact Madelaine Shields.

Whether we should take a mortgage and raise funds for it by leasing office space, or raise sufficient funds prior to purchase to buy a building outright (or something in between) is still a matter of stimulating discussion. The exact form the building will take will start to crystallize when we get our tax number and funds start coming in. In the meantime, imaginative brainstorming will give us all the more options when our financial position is clearer.

At the January 24 meeting a system of membership fees was approved. Please see the attached application form for categories and amounts. The fees will go to the newsletter and society expenses, and the remainder to digging out the foundations. Many of you have made substantial contributions already. Others have paid \$2 to be on the mailing list. If you belong to either category and you would like this fact recognized, please indicate on the attached membership application. If we could claim 1000 individual members and 20 group members representing another 1000 women, governments and business would really take our requests seriously!

It has become clear that bringing in interested women at the Saturday Planning and Advisory Meetings (held every 2 months) is disorientating to both working members and new women. Consequently it has been decided to hold separate orientation meetings for interested women. The first of these will be held ~~March 21st~~ <sup>March 21st</sup> at 733 Johnson St. (Maynard Court), 3rd Floor, from 9:45 to 11:45. Working members please note, the ~~March 21st~~ <sup>May 21st</sup> meeting has been set aside for new women! A working members meeting is being planned presently to be held in early April. All working members will be notified as soon as the date is settled.

Finally, regarding this little newssheet itself: we intend to publish every two months, a few weeks in advance of the next Planning and Advisory Meeting to give you plenty of notice of that date (sorry we weren't able to do that this time). Your gracious editor is Elizabeth Morton, and she is available at 595-6340. Henceforth she will rely on yourselves for input to keep all women informed, up-to-date and enthusiastic. If you know anything of interest to the Women's Building project, please contact her. Committees, please keep in touch! (Investigative reporting is not my forte). Comments and criticisms are also welcome. The next issue should be available the end of April/beginning of May. Hope to hear from you before then!



JO NESBITT

(from Kinesis)