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WOMEN'S BUILDING OF VICTORIA SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number 2.

June 24, 1981

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

Hello workers and supporters! Here is your up-date on the activities of the Women's Building Society since March.

First, we are in the process of arranging to sign a lease that will give us our campaign headquarters. Our office will be at 760B Yates St. (actually its between Johnson and Yates to the left of Maynard Court as you are standing on Johnson). We have our own entrance, a space large enough for meetings and renting to women who are doing courses etc. Our rent will be \$225 per month and we are hoping that renting to other groups will help us pay the rent. The space is currently greatly in need of extensive renovation which the landlord has agreed to do. We are hoping to be able to move in some time in August. We will need furniture etc., so please go through your house and anything that you can donate or loan would be greatly appreciated. Please call Bet McMurchy or Susan Moger (phone #'s below). We can't afford to buy anything! This is interim space only for use by the Society. We will not be operating any kind of service for the community -- just have a place to be organized in!

Our Constitution has been okayed by the province and we have applied to the federal government for a tax-deductible number. We need that number before we can start large-scale fundraising. However, we are and have been receiving donations. We have received \$5,251 over the past 11 months and spent \$1,181.

At the June working members meeting we decided to hire a fundraising co-ordinator. A task force has been established to bring back information regarding what we would expect a fund-raiser to do, a job description, what kind of person we want, what her connection to the society would be, etc. The task force will report back at the July working members meeting (July 7, 7pm, 733 Johnson St.).


An art auction with the proceeds going to the Building will be held at Open Space Gallery in December or next July. The project is being co-ordinated by Phyllis Serota. More information on this project will be forthcoming in future newsletters. (If any of you happen to have any Klee's or Cezanne's in your basement. . .).

A useful Prime Time legacy is their Information Kit packed full of middle years women information and ideas. The Victoria Y has been selling them but it was recently decided that once we get our space we will sell them with the proceeds going to the Women's Building. The kits are \$20.00 each and well worth it. In addition, Marilyn Callahan and Susan Stein have written the final report of the Prime Time project -- A Short-Term project For Long-Term Change. This report will be \$10.00 with proceeds also going to the Building. If anyone wants either the kit or the report, please call Susan Moger.

In March we were saddened by the death of one of our most active workers and supporters, Muriel Gough-Azmier. Muriel was born in England in 1912 and came to Canada with her husband Ben, in 1944. Muriel, who was greatly influenced by the writings of Vera Brittain on peace in the 1930's, has been involved in social issues on a continuous basis ever since. They moved to Victoria

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in 1975 where Muriel has been active in the peace movement, in efforts to achieve reforms in the justice system and to further the growth and development of adequate resources and groups for women. We remember and are grateful for her steadfastness in working for women's rights and for her contribution to the Victoria Women's Building. Instead of flowers, Muriel requested that friends, if moved, send donations to the Women's Building Society or the Argenta Friends School. We have received \$562 in donations in memory of Muriel. This money has been set aside from our general funds and will be used for a special project in her name when we get the building.

We have had 1,000 pamphlets on the building and the society 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. We are distributing these now.

A Women's Business Directory Project is being organized into a book by Susan Chang (598-0395) and Mary Virtue (386-5933).. They are encouraging all women in all trades and professions to include themselves in their Directory which is planned for publication in September. Forms are available at Everywomens Books or by calling Susan or Mary. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about all the skills we women in Victoria have, and to support each other.

Cathy Mountain, a member of the Women's Building Society, is a board member of the Victoria General Hospital and is up for re-election as a pro-choice candidate in the up-coming election of the hospital society. Please become a member of both the Jubilee and the General Hospital societies. Forms are available at Everywomens Books and by contacting the Coalition for Choice on Abortion, 531 Quadra St.

In the interests of keeping communication open, all working members have been receiving copies of the minutes of the co-ordinating committee and the working members meetings. (If you haven't been receiving them, please contact Nancy McMurphy). All this copying is getting expensive and inconvenient. If any of you have access to copying facilities that we could use for free or at a reduced cost, it would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, call Bet McMurphy or Susan Moger. Also, Bet or Susan would appreciate a call from anyone who has charts or other pertinent information from any of our previous Saturday meetings. We know that some of us have stuff in our basements and we are trying to get it all pulled together.

Not all of our working members have paid their \$10.00 membership. This is important as that money pays for copying and mailing, which tends to add up. If you are an associate member and haven't paid \$2 to receive this newsletter (that fee is included in any membership of the society), please do so by sending your money to our post office box. Reduced membership fees of \$3 for both working and associate membership are also available if your income is limited. Please contact Nancy McMurphy for full information on various forms of membership.

We regret that Bev Wright is no longer on the coordinating committee due to pressures in her private life. She has our many thanks for her contribution, and has been replaced by Nancy McMurphy. The names and phone #'s of the committee are:- Susan Moger (Legal) 592-4215; Bet McMurphy (Publicity) 598-7535; Nancy McMurphy (Membership) 595-7401; Jacquei Sellgren (Funding) 598-5957; and Madeleine Shields (Space) 598-4175. The coordinating committee meetings are held twice a month and are open to any member. Check with Bet for time and place. Working members meetings have been held once a month and for the date, time and place of the meetings please call Bette Herbert, 479-2266.

Thanks to all our workers and supporters for all your contributions!