

Corner Brook Status of Women Council

NEWSLETTER - August 2021

My Friend Diane Mintz -

tribute by Marilee Pittman, Former Co-ordinator of the Corner Brook Women's Centre

My friend and colleague Diane Mintz died on Saturday June 26, 2021. Diane and I worked together at the Women's Centre on West Street in the early 80s. The centre was established in 1980 by The Corner Brook Status of Women. There were two projects; The Women's Centre, which provided information and programming for women. Diane and I ran that project. Marilyn Luscomb and Anna Howlett ran the Employment for Women Project.

The Women's Centre was on the top floor of Pizza Delight on West Street. Marilyn and Anna occupied the main suite, while Diane and I shared the smaller space, which would have been a bedroom, when the place was a small apartment. Right from the beginning, Diane and I became fast friends. We weren't allowed to call ourselves "counsellors" but a lot of the work we did was just that. Women who lived in environments where they endured physical, mental and/or sexual abuse. To escape their abuser they would come to the Women's Centre looking for help. I remember a woman who had sat up at Tim Horten's all night because she was afraid to go home. Sometimes the Salvation Army would put abused women up in a local hotel for a night or two until they could find a safe place to stay. Another woman showed us the marks around her neck caused by the chain her husband tried to choke her

with. Helping women find their power was work we loved. We felt empowered and wanted all women to feel that way.

The Women's Centre was a hive of activity and action. We made presentations to various Task Forces, wrote articles for publication in the local newspaper, The Western Star. We did radio and TV interviews. We lobbied for a shelter for battered women and for changes in legislation which would provide an equal division of matrimonial property and laws that would enforce child support. The Employment project provided workshops to help Women re-enter the workforce, and to encourage women to obtain courses that would get them employment in nontraditional trades.



It was heady times. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was being repatriated, the politicians did not want to include equal rights for women. A national lobby effort was mounted and we got the job done. We held terrific workshops on everything from menopause to car repairs. We hosted a series of dinners at the Glynmill Inn and had guest speakers like Barbara Frum, Iona Campagnolo, Dr. Lois Wilson, the first female

moderator of the United Church of Canada and the illustrious Maude Barlow. These would be sold out events.

Diane was such an integral part of the Women's Centre in those days. She went on to get a degree in social work. She worked for years in Addiction Services and also ran a private counselling service. Diane was married and had two children. She and the family travelled widely and were physically active, bicycling, cross country skiing and other athletic endeavors. Throughout her life Diane remained an advocate for social justice. Both her children displayed their mother's passion for social justice.

Diane was a loyal, caring friend. She remained friends with the women she worked with at city hall when she first moved to Corner Brook. Her friends from her work at Addiction Services, friends that she and Eric made. Diane and Eric celebrated Jewish Holidays with the few Jewish families that were in the area and would include non-Jewish friends as well.

Diane was a helper. I love the saying; "In times of trouble, look for the Helpers." Diane was one of the Helpers. I was lucky to call her friend for over forty years. I will miss her terribly.

Upcoming:

We would like to thank all those who sent a donation to the Corner Brook Status of Women Council in memory of Diane.

We are book clubbing right through the summer. We are having too much fun to stop and would be happy to have you join us. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month starting at 7pm. This month we

are reading *I am an Addict* by Ben Cox. If you are interested in joining us, we have copies on hand. There is still time to join us.

We have been loving our trail walks and we still have one to go, destination yet to be determined. Tentatively, the next walk will be Tuesday morning, August 17th. Light refreshments will be provided after the walk. Please call 639-8522 for more details.

August 12 - International Youth Day. This year's theme is "Transforming food systems."

August 31 - International Overdose awareness day. Take some time today to ensure you know how to recognize and respond to an overdose, whether from alcohol, opioids, depressants, stimulants or other substances.

Spotlight on fierce, young feminist fundraisers.

MEndo - Rosemary Karn & Megan Colbourne

MEndo is a fundraising initiative by local university students Rosemary Karn and Megan Colbourne. They will be walking 460 kms between the first of June and the end of August in an effort to raise money for a new endometriosis treatment unit at the IWK.

Endometriosis is a condition that affects more than 500,000 Canadian women. It causes incredibly painful periods and is a leading cause of infertility. It is also incredibly difficult to diagnose. A new endometriosis treatment unit at the IWK will make a world of difference for the Atlantic provinces.

To learn more check out their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MEndo2021Summer>

And to donate go to:

https://secure3.convio.net/iwk/site/Donation2?jsessionid=00000000.app30128b?idb=1523371686&df_id=2460&FR_ID=1210&mfc_pref=T&PROXY_ID=1338202&2460.donation=form1&PROXY_TYPE=20&NONCE_TOKEN=9C5F502F2F1A388F455BEF96D7538A03&_ga=2.5665651.1572833795.1626874835-261094146.1624985738

or

https://secure3.convio.net/iwk/site/Donation2?idb=555733111&df_id=2460&FR_ID=1210&mfc_pref=T&PROXY_ID=1338201&2460.donation=form1&PROXY_TYPE=20&_ga=2.173512931.1572833795.1626874835-261094146.1624985738



The Great Cycle Challenge Canada (GCCC) - Juliette Colbourne

For the fourth year in a row, 12 year old Juliette is gearing up her bike and warming up her legs in preparation for the many bike rides she will need to take in the month of August in order to reach her goal of riding 200 km (trail only).

Juliette is enduring the sticks and scratches, insect bites and mud as part of the GCCC's

mission to end kids' cancer. The money that is raised across the country funds kids cancer research that leads to better treatments and most importantly better outcomes.

To learn more or to donate please go to: www.greatcyclechallenge.ca/riders/DennisColbourne

Final Word

Our Counsellor is available to provide support. Call or email to connect with her.

Counselling Services

The Corner Brook Women's Centre is offering counselling for anyone in the community.

We have sympathy for those who may have had their mental health and well-being affected by the ongoing pandemic.

If you or someone you know could avail of counselling, please drop by the centre Monday's and Wednesday's, between 9am - 4pm for an in-person consultation. We also provide services virtually for those who prefer.

The Women's Centre strives to provide a safe, non-judgmental environment for all who enter.

2 Carmen Ave, Corner Brook
Phone: 639-8522
Email: counsellor.cbswc@gmail.com

