

Leah – Coop Radio 8:15: Interview with Marcia Braundy,
Project Manager for IMAGES – Kootenay Women’s Newspaper
– A Primer on Feminism (1973-1991)

Mention BC150 Heritage Legacy Fund and Canadian Heritage
International Women’s Day March 8th - 2009

1911 European Socialists set aside March 8th for International
Working Women’s Day. The forerunner of this was in New
York City, in 1908, where militant socialist women textile
workers were waging bitter battles for decent working
conditions and union representation.

In 1910, Clara Zetkin called on the Second International
Socialist Congress in Copenhagen to establish March 8th as
IWWD. Demands at the time included opposition to impending
WWI, the vote, and equality with men at the workplace.

In 1915 in Oslo, Norway an international working women’s
demonstration took place against WWI

In 1917, working women in Russia commemorated IWD with
a demonstration and strike that helped set off the Russian
Revolution. They were demonstrating against high prices and
demanded bread.

During the 1920’ and 30s, as the depression devastated the
lives of women and men, IWD demonstrations in Europe
became increasingly militant and were often banned by police.

And during World War II, many women resistance fighters
throughout Europe celebrated Women’s Day in concentration
camps or in exile.

In 1969 North American feminists revived the tradition of IWD, and today we find less militancy in the actions and more celebration of women's history and progress, though with clear comment on the lack thereof as well.

Throughout the 1970s and into the early 1990's, IMAGES, Kootenay Women's Paper provided a media for both militant analysis and social commentary on the laws of the land, and examination and celebration of Kootenay women's lives and culture, in active solidarity with women all over the world.

We documented the women's movement in Canada as it was practiced in the lives of women in the West Kootenays, telling both personal and political stories.

It documented the struggles for effective and satisfying economic, social and political lives for women in the area, and linked arms and words with women from around the world, telling their stories along with our own. Theme issues address the major challenges of our times, Aging, Health, Machinery, Sexuality, Reproductive Rights, Working, Lesbian life, Mothers and Daughters, The Arts, Media, Feminism, Violence Against Women, Travel and Relationships.

In the Autumn of 1990, the theme was on the environment. Always a bit ahead of our times, the always volunteer, often changing, growing and shrinking IMAGES Collective sought to shed important light on the issues of concern for women, all issues!

Many of the same struggles are facing young and older women today. There is much to be learned from the reflections on and analysis of on these issues for men and women today.

Many of the writers and artists have gone on to become renowned and prizewinning: Rita Moir, Paulette Giles, Caroline Woodward, Luanne Armstrong, Marcia Braundy, Ann Swanson Gross, Freya Grey, Penny Younggreen, or P. Emily as she is now known, Laraine Roos, Elena Offerman. And others continue their active lives in political and social development: Moe Lyons, Camille Bush, Wendy Hurst, Bonnie Baker, Donna Macdonald, Sam Simpson, Sally Mackenzie, Marg Tessman, Deb Thomas, and Joy Green. Over 170 women worked on or contributed to the paper during those 19 years. This project is a tribute to all of them.

The paper was distributed across Canada in bookstores in every major city and subscriptions everywhere else. We are please that that the BC150 Heritage Legacy Fund and Canadian Heritage have provide the funding to make this unique paper available to the public.