

WEST KOOTENAY

women's

ASSOCIATION

V O L .
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25th Women's Festival

a Success!

by Sally Smith

The West Kootenay Women's Festival, held Aug 6 to 8 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre was a big success, say organizers.

"Wow! What a great weekend," says Jill Stewart, one of a group of women who put together the weekend's festivities.

Opening the festival were two women whose roots in the Slocan Valley go way back—Sinixt spokesperson Marilyn James, accompanied by Eva, the Sinixt elder who turned 90 this summer. They talked about the history of the land where the Vallican Whole sits, and welcomed all to this special place. The two women were met with heartfelt applause.

Marcia Braundy, organizer of the first women's festival 25 years ago, also welcomed women and delighted the audience with stories of the history of the women's movement in the area.

After a tasty breakfast (included in the weekend price) festival goers were treated to a host of workshops. Popular ones included Women & Globalization, Tai Chi, Cultural Appropriation, Body Printing, Astrology, Pine-needle Baskets and Drumming and Dances of Universal Peace.

Frequently heard, says Jill, were wails of "It's so hard to choose between them," when two great workshops were scheduled back to back.

Women swam, ate, talked and reminisced, she recalls. "Kids played at the free daycare, and the potluck supper was bountiful and delicious."

That night, Calgary dance band Maud rocked the crowd with their hot dance music, and local drummers joined in. While it poured outside, things were warm and jubilant inside.

Sunday brought sunny skies and another round of morning workshops. Women from Victoria, Saskatchewan, Oregon, Washington and all over the Kootenays massaged, sewed, danced, sang, wrote, and shared with each other.

The Sunday literary cabaret was packed, varied and colourful. While

readings extended over-schedule, Jill says women were enthusiastic to hear talented writers from our area.

Caroline Woodward, Luanne Armstrong, Rita Moir, Diana Hartog, Ann Alma and Almeda Miller all read to an appreciative crowd.

The closing ceremonies brought another pleasure. "The Metis drum group, Sepe Spirit's large elk drum closed the weekend with a thunderous drumming uniting all our hearts. A fine weekend," Jill says.

"Women of all sexual orientations mingled and were enriched by each other's perspectives and energy," she adds. "The feeling of the weekend was warm and easy. New friends were made. Old friends reconnected."

Here's to another 25 years of bringing wernen together.

See you' at Take Back the Night on, Friday> Sept. 24 in Nelson. Watch for posters. ¥

Mm

AIDS WALK

ANKORS, the West Kootenay/Boundary AIDS Network Outreach and Support Society, announces the **5th annual West Kootenay/Boundary AIDS Walk** scheduled for September 26, beginning at 1 p.m.

The AIDS Walk kicks off at Cottonwood Falls Park in Nelson. The route itself is 2.7 km through Nelson and back to the park. Afterwards, local musicians will entertain, and several regional officials will speak on the issue of HIV/AIDS. Local businesses will supply refreshments and children's activities will be available to make the afternoon a wonderful time for all.

Information released from the Canadian AIDS Society indicates that HIV/AIDS is increasing among women and youth under the age of 23 years and for this reason we invite women and young families to attend.

"We as women and mothers need to become involved and obtain information about HIV/AIDS", says Laura Henigman, AIDS Walk coordinator.

Neighbors, organizations and even some families are forming teams, where they walk as a group carrying their own banner or wear coordinated t-shirts. Each team decides how they want to show support. Teams, like individual walkers not only raise awareness but also pledges which go to the ANKORS Foundation. These monies enhance services for women, children and men living with or affected by HIV / AIDS in the West Kootenay / Boundary region.

If you'd like more information on how you can become involved in the West Kootenay/Boundary AIDS Walk please call ANKORS at 1-800-421-2437.

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The *West Kootenay Women's Association News* is published 7 times a year, on the following dates: Feb 1, Apr 1, May 15, July 1, Sept 1, Oct 15 & Dec 1

Deadlines for submissions are: Jan 15, Mar 15, Apr 30, Jun 15, Aug 15, Sept 30 & Nov 15 respectively.

Women invited to talk about life from their view

by Hannah Hadikein

Following program cuts and funding decreases, women in Columbia Basin communities are suffering from increases in poverty, unemployment and lack of equality.

With this in mind, the Columbia Basin Trust Women's Committee wants to hear the stories of women in communities throughout the Basin to learn more about the struggles many women face.

Through a grant from Status of Women Canada, the committee now has funding to pay for women to come and talk about their experiences of poverty, unemployment and lack of equality at a workshop in Cranbrook on September 21 and 22.

Any women wishing to attend are eligible for financial assistance with transportation, accommodation and childcare, and will be welcomed to give input for the development of an action plan. The plan will implement gender based analysis — looking at the role of women in society in the context of their gender. Women participants will also be updated about what kind of funding can be accessed from the Columbia Basin Trust, within Basin communities.

If you're interested in participating in this consultation please contact Hannah at 352-3609. Details of location and agenda will be forwarded to you along with confirmation of your participation.

Hannah is working on a short-term contract as the project coordinator for the Columbia Basin Ad Hoc Committee. The committee's goals are gaining public understanding for equality, and ensuring that the Columbia Basin Trust has a grasp of the effects on women's lives when they distribute the trust funds. The Columbia Basin Trust was set up to to compensate affected communities for the impact building hydro dams in this region has had on people's lives.



West Kootenay Women's festival

The Women's Festival Coordinators wish to thank:

- the organizing committee
- workshop facilitators
 - area coordinators
 - all the volunteers
- every one who gave a donation

We couldn't have done it without you!

on the Employment Equity Front..

by Ruth Beck

I am deep into data, swimming through statistics to put together some "baseline" information on employment equity in the region. Statistics tend to draw you into a whirlpool of meaningless numbers so I'm careful to stay afloat. I'll emerge with a summary in the fall.

In the meantime, I've put together an advisory committee - a resource of 14 people, mostly women, who play key roles in the community and care about employment equity. I am aiming for broad representation throughout the region and a broad range of employment sectors, including economic development, business, industry, labour, local government, education, training, community health, social services and grassroots organizations.

Up to this point much of my work has been to do with the Keenleyside project, as well as background study for the project as a whole. The advisory committee I mentioned will help shape the EE project by providing experienced advice on what avenues are likely best to pursue.

I've been following up with Columbia Power Corporation and others about the Keenleyside project. We've asked them to implement a new position at the dam, a women's equity coordinator, as well as an equity integration committee with a paid women's advocate. I'll keep you posted on their response.

All this is laying the groundwork for activities in the fall that I'll tell you lots about in the next issue of the Women's News.

Ruth is working on a two-year contract for WKWA, funded by Status of Women Canada to further opportunities for equal employment opportunities in the region.



Women's Web

community services

www.kics.bc.ca/~ankors/

ANKORS (AIDS)

www.users.imiserve.com/~cde

Career Development Services (HRDC)

www.kics.bc.ca/~library

Nelson Municipal Library

www.ne-fidea.com/~ksa

Kootenay School of the Arts

www.selkirk.bc.ca

Selkirk College

lesbian, bisexual

www.iictidea.com/~biiiscii/rbbc/rbbcbome.html

Rainbow BC

www.kics.bc.ca/~kcp

Kootenay Gay Pride

www.kics.bc.ca/~wkglbs

West Kootenay Gays, Lesbians & Bisexuals

nelson

www.crtynelson.bc.ca

City of Nelson

www.rdck.bc.ca

RDCK (Regional District of the Central Kootenay)

www.legis.gov.bc.ca/mla/evans.btm

Corky Evans, regional M L A

www.discovernelson.com

Discover Nelson

www.netidea.com

Net Idea — links to local news, weather, etc.

women

www.mirror.org/Iswwg/botlinks.btml

Hot links to women's sites

www.ssane.com/kootwHt

Kootenay Women in Trades & Technology
(KootWITT)

www.weq.gov.bc.ca/default.btm

Ministry of Women's Equality

www.wowwomen.com/ruralzone/frontpage.btml

Rural Womyn Zone

www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/direct.btml

States of Women Canad

youth

www.kics.ljc.ca/~ndyc/

Nelson & District Youth Centre



The West Kootenay Women's Associations Mission Statement

Believing that every woman has the right to control over her social, economic and physical circumstances, the West Kootenay Women's Association promotes equitable treatment of women and enhances public awareness of feminism. Together, we celebrate diversity by honoring women of every race, class, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, age, size, spiritual or political belief.

New CC Members Welcome

Looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? Perhaps you're interested in sitting on the Coordinating Collective of the West Kootenay Women's Association.

If you're a woman who cares about how this community is shaping up and want to participate in celebrating and supporting women in all their achievements, then the CC is a great place to direct your energies.

If you want to know more about WKWA, we've included some information here* If you have any further questions, please call Krista at 3 52 2729.

To be on the collective, simply come to the Annual General Meeting, or if you can't make it that day, send someone else to nominate you, The AGM is Thurs, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Nelson Municipal Library, Victoria; St entrance.

WKWA is ready for a new logo and we need you to help us design it. The WKWA logo should convey diversity and celebrate women in the Kootenays.

Prizes for the winning logo design include:

- Kootenay Country Co-op Kiss My Face basket
- Aromatherapy bath goodies from Something Special Boutique
- Main Street Diner's "Diner Bucks" - \$20
- Cathy Ann's Kootenay Coconut Soap basket



Our current logo:



I'M TIRED OF HAVING to be worried about being harassed by some sexist WANTS TO GET TO THE KNOW YOU
YES SIR NOBODY going to mess with a woman in 99-006 a bag on the Jan 20
COMEN HAVE YOU SEEN MY CATAL



★ Deadline for entries: Fri. Oct. 29, 1999

Beginnings

The West Kootenay Women's Association began in 1974 as a non-profit society to support and manage the affairs of the Nelson Women's Centre, then in its second year.

Purposes of the Society

(from the Constitution)

- to promote, lobby and advocate for the rights of all women to have social, economic, and physical control of their person regardless of race, class, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, age, size, spiritual or political beliefs;
- to supply and render service of a charitable and educational nature to women;
- to establish resources for women;
- to co-operate with other organizations which have objectives similar to the purposes of the Association;
- to operate as a non-profit organization to administer and employ its property, assets, and rights, for the purpose of promoting, or aiding in the promotion of the welfare of all women;
- to receive, acquire, and hold gifts, donations legacies, and devices.

You're invited to the

• Annual General Meeting of the West Kootenay Women's Association

on Thursday, September 23, 7:00 p.m. at the Nelson Municipal Library basement.

What happens at the "AGM?"

Here's our agenda for the evening:

1. Introductions
2. Accept agenda
3. Introductory round of guests
4. Approve minutes of 1998 WKWA AGM
5. New business
6. Annual report
7. Financial report
8. Committee reports (5 min max):
 - Personnel
 - House
 - Women's Centre Committee
 - Policy
 - Projects
 - Membership & Festival
 - Staff report
 - Library
 - Fundraising
 - Employment Equity
9. National Action Committee (NAC) report
10. Motion to accept reports
11. Request for new committee members
12. Describing the roles of WKWA's Coordinating Collective (CC) members
13. Thank you to all previous CC members
14. Nominations for 1999/2000 CC members
15. Adjourn



And after the official stuff is wrapped up...

...we're having a farewell bash and presentation for Karen Newmoon, who, until June of this year, was a coordinator of the Women's Centre for 3 years. Enjoy treats and refreshments and mingle a little,



What is the Coordinating Collective?

The West Kootenay Women's Association's Coordinating Collective (CC) is a progressive, grass-roots women's group, similar to a board, but operating on consensus-based decision making model.

The CC has a conflict resolution policy, shares facilitation and strives to take an active role in community development.

Currently WKWA is developing long-term structures that will ensure we'll be here for a long time to come, and will run in a healthy, open style. Diversity is embraced. Women from all walks of life are invited to participate.

Having a voice on the collective means sharing ideas with a broad range of women who bring their energy to making the communities in the region vital and supportive for women — through working for employment equity, operating the women's centre, or developing policy that continues to strive for equal opportunity for girls and women.

Terms run for two years. WKWA has an executive (two co-chairs, a *treasurer* and a *secretary*) in addition to several other positions available.

BE PART OF AN EXCITING & PROGRESSIVE WOMEN'S GROUP Call Keitha, CC secretary, at 352-9288 if you're considering a term on the CC, or show up at the AGM. If you can't make the meeting, send someone in your place to nominate you.



Why come to the AGM?

If you're a member of WKWA, the AGM is the time to find out about the direction the society is going. It's a good way to check out the association's accountability and participate in decision-making.

There have been big changes in the past year, too many to summarize here. The AGM is a great opportunity to find out what they are — and whether they're the kind of changes you may be hoping for.

The AGM is a place where the society can receive your feedback, where you can feel a sense of ownership and gather the information you need to know how your society is doing.

WKWA is *concerned about* ensuring accessibility, *outreach and diversity*. The Association would love to see representatives from all parts of the community eft on the CC.

See you at the AGM! Sept. 23, 7 p.m.

Women's News goes tree free

by KLinda Kivi

The newsletter you are holding has *no* wood products in it. Feel it. Nice, eh? It's Ecosource Paper made from flax, hemp, and cotton. We ordered a few reams of it last spring when our paper re-using zeal at the Centre created a surplus in our office supplies budget. We won't necessarily be able to afford continuing to buy tree-free but it's good to try it out and think about our paper use.

This particular paper comes from Eastern Europe but Ecosource's President, Odette Kolman is eagerly looking for North American sources of tree-free paper. Perhaps now that hemp cultivation is on the rise, this will become possible.

But why go tree-free?

One of the obvious reasons is the damage extensive logging and pulp production causes to our environment. Chlorine, a product used in pulp production, has been clearly linked to breast cancer, for one. And if breast cancer isn't a "woman's issue", what is?

Another reason is that tree-free paper simply makes sense. Hemp is a fast growing, hardy, agricultural product and yields a lot of fibre. One U.S. estimate says that 1% of U.S. agricultural land would provide for all their paper needs. Hemp fibres also make good, strong, acid-free paper. Hemp can be recycled 7 times (as opposed to 3 times that for wood paper). It can be bleached using the much safer hydrogen peroxide (instead of chlorine) and cut 80% of dioxin-bearing wastes that currently go into our rivers.

Why *not* go tree-free? ?



Pick of the Library



by Karen Warkentin

Fidelity is a view into the lives of four Nelson women seeking to live by unconventional standards. Through a journaling circle, they discover that polyamory is about more than freedom to love.

In turn, Jo, Lyn, K. Linda and Catherine learn to take responsibility for themselves, their actions and their truths in the realm of intimacy.

The authors explore the different roads each have travelled in terms of relationship, as well as how they negotiate the day-to-day struggles of living polyamorously. Relationship to family and commu-

nity, jealousy, shame and acceptance of self are a few of the issues they encounter in their travels.

Originally written as correspondence among lovers, friends and lovers of lovers, *Fidelity* offers insight into the care, patience and respect required to successfully negotiate the terrain of multiple relationships. It also reveals the potential for joy and growth in their challenging lifestyle.

Fidelity is a book about passion, trust, personal responsibility and above all, communication.

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MINI-CLASSIFIEDS

I AM LOOKING FOR A

ROOMMATE—Easy access to town, beautiful country setting, \$225/mo., utilities separate, 359-7896.

THE WOMEN'S CENTRE is desperately seeking donations of a vacuum cleaner and a weed wacker, 352-9916.

IF YOU'RE AN ARTIST, the *WKWA News* needs you. We'd love to include your drawings of women and the Kootenays in the design of our newsletter. Any graphic decorative images welcome, with credit for the work going to YOU! Call 352-9916.

HOUSEMATE WANTED— working, quiet, no pets, n/s woman to share home with one other woman on Granite Rd. \$300/mo including utilities. Two bright large rooms plus share kitchen. Large private yard, call 352-9517

AT THE MILDRED ERB GALLERY

—Sept. 3-26 **L.X. Forde** paintings. Oct. 1-31 **Helen Friesan**, watercolour. The gallery is downstairs at the Nelson Museum.

BUY A '99 WOMEN'S FESTIVAL T-SHIRT! \$20, or two for \$35. Drop by the Women's Centre to see the beautiful design done by Ann Swanson, local artist and owner of A Place in the Forest Gallery in Winlaw.

PSSST...GOT ANY CDs?—Know of any that would be a nice addition to the Women's Centre collection? We now have 5, count'em, 5. Donations most gratefully accepted. Some artists women have requested here are: Natalie Marchant, Ella Fitzgerald, Victoria Williams, Joni Mitchell, Billie Holliday, Indigo Girls, kd lang, Carole King, Sarah McLachlan, Ani DiFranco, Lhasa, Rodeo Girls, Christine Lhati, Kathy Kallick, Gillian Welch, Tracy Chapman, Maud. Call 352-9916.

LESBIAN POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUP- cancelled temporarily until winter.

CO-OP RADIO is looking for programmers. If you have an idea call 352-9600.

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events



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT—A community event is being planned for the evening of Fit, Sept. 24 to honour the annual day set aside to *Take Back the Night*. Watch for posters around town and newspaper notices for an evening that addresses safety issues women can encounter after the sun goes down.

KOOTENAY GAY PRIDE

PRESENTS: Hooplaiah—a variety show, on Fri., Sept. 3 at the Capitol Theatre. **Gay Pride Parade**—Sat., Sept. 4, meet at Central School (Ward & Mill) at 2:30 pm. **Dance-Rod & Gun Club**, 8:30 pm-Midnight with Seeing Eye Dog Blues Band. Call 352-7303 for more info.

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MID-LIFE CONFERENCE—Sat. Oct. 23 at Selkirk College, Castlegar.

Conference, 9 - 5:30, \$30, includes lunch. Free Health Fair, open to public, 9:30 - 5:30. Dinner & Entertainment, 6:30 - 9 pm, \$15. Limited scholarships/work trades available if you can't pay full fee, call 354-1140.

WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S COUNCIL—Annual General Meeting, Mon. Sept. 13, 9:30 - 4, at Trail Fire Hall, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary office, 202-843 Rossland Ave., Trail.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTRE (YERC)—Open Tues-Fri at 10 am as well as additional Youth Centre hours, 608 Lake St. Check out the website at www.kics.bc.ca/~yerc.

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN SCHOOL—Municipal Workshop at Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre, Sat. Sept. 25, 1999. The school aims to increase the number of women in politics. Cdn Women Voters Congress, (604)878-8228; SFU, (604)291-5069. Web: www.sfu.ca/cstudies/womenscampaignschool. E-mail: vadams@sfu.ca

HON. HEDY FRY, Secretary of State (Status of Women) & Federal MP, visits the Nelson & District Women's Centre **Sept. 8, 2-3 pm**. All women welcome. Dr. Fry is visiting to gather first-hand knowledge about Women's and Multicultural issues at the community level. Also, catch Dr. Fry for lunch at the Heritage Inn Hume Rm, Noon, \$10 at the door.

FALL MUSIC SERIES—Ellen McIlwaine, world-famous slide Blues guitarist. Two Shows: Fri. Oct. 22 at the Silverton Gallery and Sat. Oct. 23 at the Avalon Night Club. Call 354-1340 for more info. Plus, watch for November shows by Maud and Kinnie Starr.

KOOTENAY GALLERY—"The Beat Goes On" from the Calgary Science Centre. Hands-on learning about a mystery contained within us all, the human heart, Sept. 17 - Nov. 7. Also, "Improving Your Odds" a pictorial exhibit by the Heart & Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon, Castlegar unit.

GIRLS NIGHT—Just for girls to enjoy movies, ramp sports, mural painting, outings to the theatre, bowling, food and friends. Girls of all ages are welcome, 8 pm-midnight.

WOMEN'S LANDTRUST—homes for our Elders. Those who like to envision themselves growing old in a supportive, healthy, vibrant community of women focused on alternative healing, arts & music and acceptance of various lifestyles. Come find out more on Sun., Sept. 19 at 6 pm. For more info call Gitta at 352-6597.



WOMEN'S SELF DISCOVERY GROUP—Be part of a community of women who are committed to deepening their inner journey and creating time to nurture themselves. Begins **Thurs., Sept. 30**. Please call Val at the Women's Centre for more details, 352-9916.

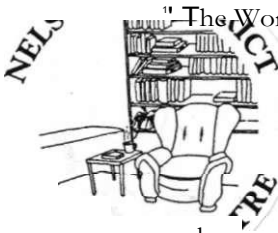
WENLIDO Women's Self Defense/Self-Awareness Workshop—2-day workshop will give you greater insight into your responses to stressful situations and how to use adrenaline for your advantage and strength rather than paralyzing in fear. Sun. Sept. 26 and Sun. Oct. 3, 10 to 6. For registration call Gitta at 352-6597 or the Women's Centre at 352-9916.

PATRICIA PERRINE VIRLY, PhD,—well-known to many women in Nelson, is up from Seattle to give a guest lecture on "connected narrative," Thurs. Sept. 9 at Nelson Municipal Library basement, 7 p.m.

OPEN ARTS & CRAFTS STUDIO—Youth Centre has an art room full of supplies and creative ideas for youth who enjoy art. This room is available to youth during regular hours. Look for special event times, such as mural painting evenings.

WILD HARVEST—Libby Ruljancich from Bright Ridge Farm (lower Arrow Lake) is be doing another workshop on gathering food, **Sept. 18, 10 a.m. at the Kootenay Gallery**. Libby will be presenting a slide show, samples and a lecture. Take a field trip from 1 - 4:30 pm.

NELSON UNIVERSITY PUBLIC LECTURES—Helen Gregory MacGill, "a great heroine." Elaine Dupuis talks about the 1st woman judge in B.C. **Mon. Oct. 18**, Nelson Municipal Library, basement, 7 p.m. **ETCETERA ETCETERA LITERARY SALON**—Sept. 28, 7:30 pm, Dancing Bear Inn, 171 Baker Street, Sci-fi night, \$5 at the door.



"The Women's Centre is a place where we'd like you to feel at home.

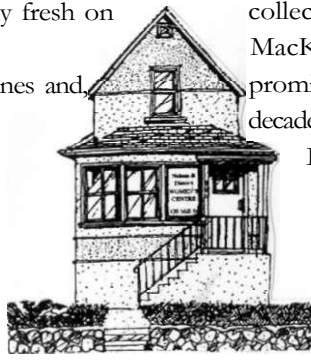
With that in mind, we hope it's a place where you feel comfortable enough to make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and hang out for awhile. There is no charge for coffee or tea, but we'd be grateful if you'd throw a quarter in the tin once in a while to help cover the costs of supplies.

If you can use some extra food, help yourself to a piece of tofu (two if you have children). We are thrilled to offer this service: the tofu is supplied free of charge by Silverking Soya Products and is usually fresh on Tuesdays.

We subscribe to a number of magazines and publications, which we invite you to read:

- The Nelson Daily News*
- Kinesis*
- The Open Door*
- Gayzette*
- Herizons*
- Transitions*

We have brochures on many community service agencies in the area, as well as on information on many topics of interest to women.



Feel free to check our bulletin boards for information on: Housing; Jobs; Rides; Childcare; Lesbian issues; Events & Groups; Youth issues and Services & Businesses run by women.

Staff or volunteers at the Centre are trained to provide emotional support. Please let us know if you would like to have a private talk. We also have lots of information about places in town to go for further support or information.

The Women's Centre library is our treasure. We have an awesome selection of books — from great novels to specific topics, like women's health, spirituality, poverty and personal growth. We've been very fortunate to have received incredible book collections from Kathleen Shannon and Suzanne MacKenzie — two local women who have been prominent in women's issues over the past few decades and bequeathed their books to us.

Lastly, we have available for your use:

- A computer with WordPerfect
- Connection to the Internet
- Photocopier
- Fax machine
- Telephone (for local calls)

Drop by the Women's Centre and see for yourself.

Join the West Kootenay Women's Association

Be part of the oldest women's organization in B.C. — one that welcomes *all* women and continues to address the issues women face in society today.

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Phone: _ _ _ _ _ Fax: _ _ _ _ _ E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Annual memberships are on a sliding scale, from \$30 to \$15. Memberships are valid until September's annual general meeting each year. Fees are pro-rated depending on when you join. Memberships are also available for a 4-hour work trade.

Membership gets you a newsletter, access to our awesome selection of books in the library, and supports an organization that's been advocating the rights of women in the Kootenays since 1973. Make cheques payable to: "WKWA"

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