



WESTERN  
CANADIAN  
WOMEN'S  
FESTIVAL

JUNE 13,14,15,16

KASLO, B.C.

# 1975 Western Canadian Women's Festival

in celebration of International

Women's Year

Last year the Kootenay Women's Council sponsored a two-day Women's Festival at Pass Creek Park. It was a huge success. People came from all over the Kootenays to see, hear, and participate in women's music and crafts, to swim and sun and enjoy.

This year we're doing it again - bigger! We've added two more days and reserved them just for women. We've expanded to include all of Western Canada. We're putting more emphasis on participation of women in the organization and running of the Festival. We're making more efforts to develop activities especially designed for children and for mixed groups of men and women, as well as some special workshops for men only and women only.

We're using large, more comfortable facilities and organizing billeting and transportation.

1975 WESTERN CANADIAN WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

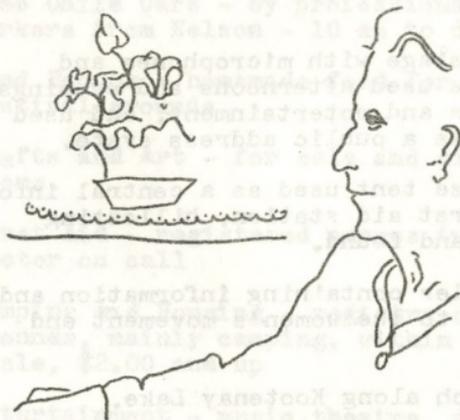
June 13, 14, 15, 16

Who are we?

We are the Kootenay Women's Council, a group of women from Trail, Castlegar, Nelson, Balfour, Salmo, New Denver, Slokan Valley.

The Kootenay Women's Council produces Images, a newspaper concerned with issues affecting women in the Kootenays, B.C., and Canada.

The Kootenay Women's Council got a grant of \$15,000 from the Secretary of State to produce the 1975 Western Canadian Women's Festival.



2

Kordisch

What will the Western Canadian Women's Festival be like?

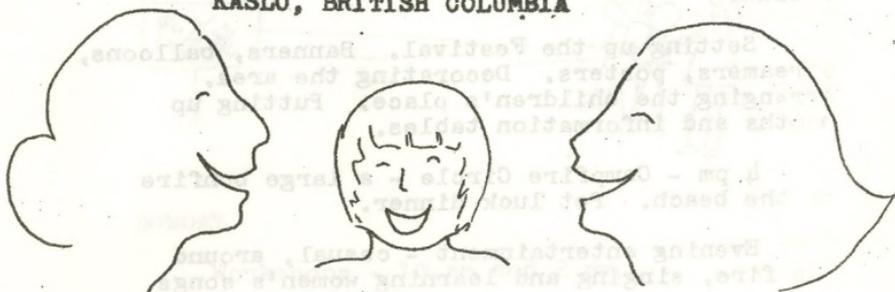
It's impossible to predict. It really depends on who comes and what they make of it once they are there. But we can tell you the things you might see.

1. A green shed being used as a food booth.
2. A very large tent with the sides rolled up being used to shelter the arts and crafts sales and exhibition.
3. A playground with swings and slides for the child care area, together with a white building which contains sink and toilets for the child care program.
4. An outdoor stage with microphones and amplifiers to be used afternoons and evenings for performances and entertainment, and used during the day as a public address system.
5. A medium size tent used as a central information tent, first aid station, billeting registry, lost and found.
6. Several tables containing information and books pertaining to the women's movement and women's issues.
7. Lots of beach along Kootenay Lake.
8. A baseball field and open grassy areas.
9. Public washrooms, water taps, camping, and parking areas.

# 1975 WESTERN CANADIAN WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

June 13, 14, 15, 16

KASLO, BRITISH COLUMBIA



## EVERY DAY:

**Free Child Care** - by professional child care workers from Nelson - 10 am to 6 pm

**Food Booths** - homemade food for sale on the Festival grounds

**Crafts and Art** - for sale and display, demonstrations

**First Aid** - registered nurses in attendance, doctor on call

**Camping and Housing** - registry on Festival grounds, mainly camping, within 3 miles of Kaslo, \$2.00 and up

**Entertainment** - music, theatre, dance, volleyball, baseball, fishing, boating, etc.

**Public washrooms**

**Lost and Found**

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - RESERVED FOR WOMEN ONLY

FRIDAY:

Setting up the Festival. Banners, balloons, streamers, posters. Decorating the area. Arranging the children's place. Putting up booths and information tables.

4 pm - Campfire Circle - a large bonfire on the beach. Pot luck dinner.

Evening entertainment - casual, around the fire, singing and learning women's songs



SATURDAY:

Workshops - 10 am and 2 pm

Women in Crafts

Childbirth

Dance

Women in Employment

Women in Politics

Medical Self-Help

Swimming

Gestalt

Auto Mechanics

Bush Cooking

Cooperatives in B.C.

Chainsaws

Arica

B.C.F.W. Lesbian Caucus

Entertainment - 4pm to 10 pm

Ira McNeill

Gene Perks

Andy Rush

Joanna Jean

Adrienne Potts

Rosebery Jam

Slocan Valley

Women's Readers Theatre

Lesbian Caucus Readers

... and more

# SUNDAY AND MONDAY - WOMEN AND THEIR GUESTS



## SUNDAY

Workshops - 10 am and 2 pm

Women in China  
Massage (women)  
Massage (men)  
Feminist News Service  
Gestalt

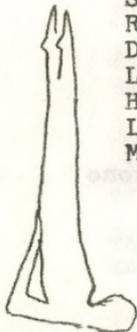
Sexuality  
Men's Consciousness  
Raising  
Men with Children  
History and Ideology  
of the Women's  
Movement

Entertainment - 4 pm to 10 pm

The Doukhobour Women's Choir  
Rita McNeill  
Slocan Valley Women's Readers Theatre  
Rosebery Jam  
Donna Jean  
Liz and Mo  
Harriet Van Deusen  
Linda Brooks  
Marlene Lodmell

Adrienne tts  
Wendy Rush  
Jane Perks  
Ann Letterman  
Leah Main

... and more



**MONDAY:**

**Workshops - 10 am and 2 pm**

**Cooperatives in B.C.  
Music Improvisation  
Women in Employment  
Women in Politics  
Healing Yourself**

**Newspaper Layout  
Arica  
Dance  
Gestalt**

**Entertainment - 4pm to 10 pm**

**Open to women performers  
Experimental women's jam session**

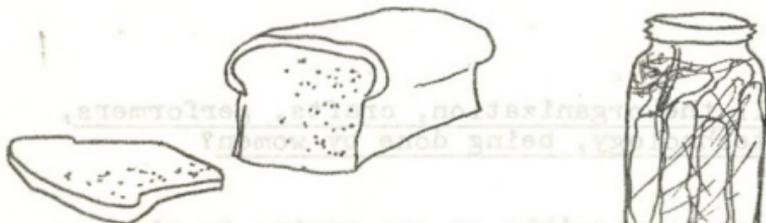
**Cleaning up the Park.**



**TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE FESTIVAL:**

**Slides and Movies  
Movie: The End of August at the Hotel Ozone  
Crafts Demonstrations  
Special Exhibits**





### Why have a Festival?

The question was asked at a Kootenay Women's Council general meeting: What do hope to get out of the Festival? Replies ranged as follows:

To create a supportive atmosphere for women during the Festival;

To have a good time;

To meet other women from Western Canada with whom we don't usually get a chance to meet and talk;

To learn something new or try out some new things;

To write a report of the Festival which will enable women to keep in touch with each other and with the resources available to them;

To use the \$15,000 well;

To celebrate International Women's Year;

To provide a forum for women artists and craftspeople and technicians to show and share their expertise.



Why is all the organization, crafts, performers, labour, technology, being done by women?

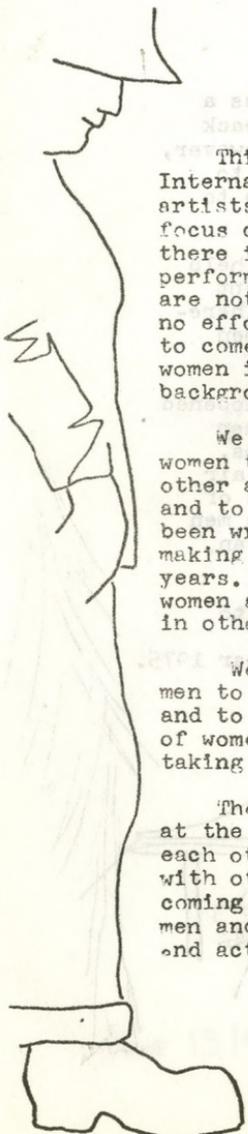
As much as possible we are trying to give women the benefit of the Festival and of the grant money. Women are being paid to organize the Festival, to do the art work for the posters, and to print the posters, to do the sound technology for the evening performances, to do child care, food booths, transportation.

Some people have asked why the Kootenay Women's Council has reserved two days of the Western Canadian Women's Festival for women only.

There was a great deal of controversy over this issue, ranging from all four days open to all four days reserved. This is the compromise decision that was reached amicably by the seventeen women present at that meeting.

There are many reasons for this decision. There is an energy released when only women are together that feels really good. When women come with men, or as a part of a couple, most time and energy is devoted to making sure the males are comfortable, a very traditional role.

We would like to spend that energy on ourselves, discovering and sharing, and getting to know each other, developing and exploring skills without anyone looking over our shoulders.

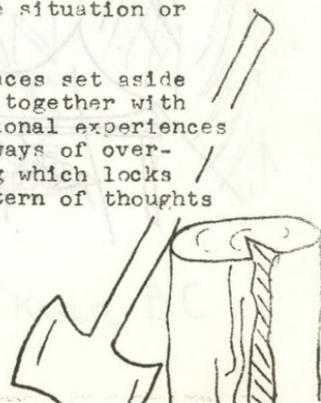


This Festival is being held as a part of International Women's Year to promote women artists, musicians, and crafts persons, and to focus on the activities of women. In general there is a notable lack of women in public performances. That is not because there are not any women performers. There has been no effort made in the past to encourage women to come forward. The traditional role for women in this area has been either in the background or as window dressing.

We want to provide a time and space for women to present their art, to share with each other and to get a feeling for what we can do, and to develop more confidence. Women have been writing, singing, dancing, acting, and making art and crafts in their homes for years. Next year we expect to see more women at the Folkfest and Multifusion, and in other arts shows and media.

We also feel that it is important for men to share with us our joys and accomplishments and to learn to be comfortable in the company of women without dominating the situation or taking over the stage.

There will be times and spaces set aside at the Festival for men to get together with each other to share non-traditional experiences with other men and to explore ways of overcoming the sex-role programming which locks men and women into a fixed pattern of thoughts and actions.



Many of these positions were come to as a result of last year's Festival. The feedback we got was positive for the most part. However, many women regretted not getting a chance to get involved because of their relationship to the men present.

Some men have expressed their wish to help or become involved with the women's movement as enabling all people to become freer. Therefore we have created that possibility if men wish to take advantage of it.

The only really negative thing that happened at last year's Festival was when several men showed up by themselves, drunk and obnoxious, and began taking up a lot of space - both air and physical. This year the last two days of the Festival will be open to women and the men they wish to invite, in the hope that we can avoid that kind of affrontive behaviour.

We hope that women and men will come to Festival and have a good time. Celebrate Women - Celebrate International Women's Year 1975.

