



Collective Wisdom

Women's
Resource Centre

September 2010

Women's Memorial Monument



In 2007, a group of women from the Quesnel Women's Resource Centre began the process of working towards a Memorial Monument for our community that would honour our local missing and murdered women. The monument aims to honour these women, as well as all women who are impacted by violence in their lives. There are nearly sixty monuments of this nature that can be found across Canada. They are inspired to create change in communities, to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women, as well as honour those women who have lost their lives to violence. The monument will provide a place for family and friends to remember and honour their loved one, as well as a place for members of Quesnel to reflect on the enormous costs violence against women has on the entire community.

The Quesnel Women's Resource Centre has raised over \$13,000.00 for Quesnel's monument thanks to the following donors: The City of Quesnel, Cariboo Pulp and Paper Employees, Cariboo Pulp and Paper, Jody Oakley, United Concrete and Gravel, Amata Transition House Society, The McLean Foundation, The Quesnel Community Foundation, Integris Credit Union, Quesnel Addiction Services Society, and all of the members of the community who purchased raffle tickets or helped out in some way towards this project. Thank you everyone.

The monument will be located along the Riverfront Trail walk at the end of Bowron Avenue in North Quesnel. The monument is set to be complete early September; and on September 17th, for the annual Take Back the Night event, there will be a ceremony held at the location of the Women's Memorial Monument. Following are the names of our local Missing and Murdered women:

Mary Jane Jimmie – Age 29
Julia Baptiste – Age 43
Roxanne Thiara - Age 15
Tiffany McKinney - Age 19
Deena Lyn Braem - Age 17
Dorotheé Huguette McLaughlin – Age 57
Leah Marie Faulkner - Age 21
Mary Mae Dick - Age 40
Barbara Anne Lanes - Age 57
Julie Oakley Parker - Age 33

Family members and friends of these women will be invited to speak about their experience. The memorial will begin at 6:30pm. A peaceful march to raise awareness on violence against women will then proceed from the monument through the downtown core and back up to the Women's Resource Centre at 690 McLean Street. A tea and get together will follow. Please phone 250-992-8472 for more information.



Collective Wisdom

Domestic Terrorists

Taken from: *The War on Women* by Brian Vallée (2007)

We live on a planet beset by war. In North America alone, the most familiar wars – those spotlighted by the media – include the War on Drugs, the War on Terror, the War on Crime, the Gulf War, the war in Afghanistan, and the war in Iraq.

Once the politicians decide that the war will be waged – in a foreign country or on the home streets – the lives of the women and men in the military and in law enforcement are at risk.

In the seven years from 2000 to 2006 ... forty-four Canadian soldiers were killed in Afghanistan, including four who died in accidents and six killed by 'friendly fire'. At home, sixteen law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty, while another forty-one died from 'non-hostile' causes (including sixteen in car accidents, seven in aircraft accidents, and three in motorcycle accidents). The combined total of all Canadian military and law enforcement deaths for that seven year period was 101.

We pay tribute to these fallen men and women, often with national television, newspaper, and magazine coverage. Whenever a police officer is shot or otherwise feloniously killed in the line of duty, hundreds of police officers from all over North America gather for the funeral services. In June 2006, all of Canada mourned the death in Afghanistan of Captain Nicola Goddard, the first Canadian female combat soldier ever to be killed in battle, and watched live national media coverage of her funeral and subsequent burial with full military honours at Ottawa's National Military Cemetery...

There is another war – largely overlooked but even more deadly – with far more victims killed by 'hostiles'. But these dead are not labelled heroes, nor are they honoured in the national media or in formal ceremonies. From time to time, they may attract a spate of publicity as the result of a high-profile trial, or an inquest that will likely conclude that society let them down once again and recommend changes to prevent future deaths, though these recommendations will be mostly ignored. This war is the War on Women.

Compare the raw numbers... In Canada, compared to the 101 Canadian soldiers and police officers killed, more than 500 women – nearly *five times* as many – met the same fate.

Here is another revealing comparison. Fighting fires is a dangerous occupation. In the ten years before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks... sixty-six Canadian firefighters died in that period. Add that number to the 101 military and law enforcement deaths, and the total is still *just one-third* of the more than 500 women who were killed in so-called 'domestics'.

Those are the deaths. Then there are the wounded. In the same period... 80 Canadians were wounded in Afghanistan.

In Canada, the federal government estimates the annual cost of violence against women at \$1.1 billion in direct medical costs alone. That figure rises to more than \$4 billion a year when social services, lost productivity, lost earnings, and police, court, and prison costs are factored in.

Wars usually produce large numbers of refugees: witness the United Nations camps scattered around the world. And the War on Women has its own refugee camps, in the form of the 2, 500 or so shelters for battered women and their children across North America... In Canada, between 90, 000 and 100, 000 women and children seek safety in shelters each year.

Continued on Page 3...



Collective Wisdom

Continued from page 2.....

These comparisons are meant solely to draw attention to the ongoing scourge that continues to take the lives and to damage the bodies and minds of thousands upon thousands of women and children living in fear of the domestic terrorists in their own homes. If our governments became aware of terrorist cells that planned to kill and maim thousands of their citizens, would they not muster the full resources of the state to go after and stop them? It is an outrage that this slaughter of women should continue in so-called progressive Western democracies, or anywhere else in the world.

MISSING PERSON

Julie Oakley-Parker

Quesnel RCMP Case No. 2006-8388



On Saturday, August 5, 2006, Julie Oakley Parker, age 33, was reported missing by her family. She was last seen at a relative's residence, in the Red Bluff area of Quesnel, in the early hours of August 3rd. Julie is a Caucasian female, with medium length sandy, blonde hair. She is 5 ft 6 inches and weighs about 130 lbs.

If anyone has seen Julie since August 3 or knows anything about her whereabouts, they are asked to contact the Quesnel RCMP at 250-992-9211 or Crimestoppers at 250-992-TIPS.

Did You Know.....

- ◆ 1030 women sought out Stopping the Violence Counselling services at the Women's Resource Centre between June 2009 and June 2010.
- ◆ The Amata Transition House shelters over 200 women annually, respond to approximately 180 crisis calls a month and have about 170 women drop by seeking support or information each month.
- ◆ In 2009, the Quesnel RCMP reported that in the past 7 years, they have responded to 772 spousal assaults and 413 sexual offenses have been reported. As high as these numbers seem...the scary fact is that there are even more cases of violence that often go unreported.



Collective Wisdom

Woman of Distinction: Barendina Wiersma by Lori Carifelle



Our Grandmother, Barendina Wiersma of Friesian ancestry, was born in the Northern Netherlands in 1924. She was one of three children born into a farming family. After WW2, her father Postema posted an ad in the paper looking for help on the farm. Peter Josephy applied, got the job, and then married Barendina in 1947. They immigrated to Canada in 1948. They came over by ship landing in New York.

Friends of the neighbour's, Mr. and Mrs. derKoning, lived in Beach Corner, Alberta. There was an arrangement to work the farm and share the profit. It didn't take long to realize there would be no profit, so they went to Erma, a small community outside of Wainright Alberta. Here they worked for Frank Crab a man managing a wheat farm. While Peter helped with the farming, Barendina kept house. This is where Mark the first of eight children was born.

The next spring they left for Vernon because they heard that this was the ideal climate for growing potatoes. Since this is what Peter wanted to get into they moved to Vernon working on a potato and onion farm. They received free accommodation plus \$90/month for

Peter to work on the farm. Barendina hoed onions for \$4 a day and paid the babysitter \$2 to look after Mark and

Vincent, who was born in Vernon. She then got a job in a packaging plant packaging apples for \$.75/hour.

Wanting to own their own potato farm, they finally settled in Quesnel in 1951. Peter came early and built what is now Bonnie Josephy's house and finished it before bringing the other 3 members of his family. They lived in this house until 1957 at which time they bought 120 ac in Richbar. The Nursery evolved as they started growing bedding plants. There was a lot of interest from the community. Besides bedding plants, they also farmed potatoes, turnips, cabbage and sod. The Nursery is still in the family and the focus is on garden centre, landscaping and golf course.

In Quesnel, the rest of the kids followed: Walter, Peter, Albert, Anne, Roy, and Beatrix. Peter and Barendina separated in 1974, and later divorced. Peter stayed on at the Nursery while Barendina built her house down the road. Barendina recalls when she first came to Canada that the general attitude was quite different from Holland. She was surprised to find sexism and racism which she found out of this world; especially towards the East Indians and Native people. While generally people were welcoming and kind, she remembers some derogatory remarks about women from their husbands that weren't as common in Holland. She remembers a man talking to her at the Nursery. After a few minutes of talking to her he said "You must have a very smart husband...that he has been able to teach you this much!"



Collective Wisdom

Woman of Distinction: Continued from page 4

When they first arrived at Beach Corner, Barendina recalls being pressured to change her name from Bartje to Bernice, which she did. Then when they came to Quesnel she changed it to Ellen which she liked more. After her divorce she changed her name back to the original...Barendina Wiersma. She feels the best thing she ever did for herself was to start taking landscape courses from Guelph. She never graduated but started doing her own residential landscaping.

Another thing she recalls from earlier years was the Murdoch case from the early 1970's. This was about a house wife in Nanton Alberta. An abused farm wife finally got up the courage to divorce her husband. The judge ruled that the entire farm go to the husband as she had done no more than any regular house wife. There was lots of public outcry, and when the case went back to court, she ended up getting half of the very little bit that was still left. Barendina feels like this was a real turning point for farm wives in Canada, as lots of times women do just as much as a man in a farming operation.

Whose cup of tea?

By Barendina Wiersma (written in 1970)

“What does a woman want anyway?”
So I have heard the smart guys say.
“Why can’t a woman be content?
Why is she so intent,
On wanting to be just like a man?”
Hey sister! Do you want to be a plumber?
A logger? A carpenter?
“Woman. Where’s your senses?
Don’t you know it’s incompatible with your menses?”
But what about the woman who slaves
At a so-called feminine job,
That gives a pain between her shoulder-blades
And makes her strength and spirit fade.
While she has blisters on sore swollen feet.
Where is the man who treats her neat?
Who says: “my dear, this just is not your cup of tea.
Why don’t you leave this tough, low-pay, low status job to me?”
How come my vociferous hero now scores a big fat zero?
Is it because he knows his cup of tea is so much sweeter
Than the one he wants to serve to me?



Collective Wisdom



LACEcampaign.com

Live Aware. Create Empowerment.

Papalooza !!

Regular Pap Tests Protect Against Cervical Cancer and Save Lives!

Thursday October 28th

Luna Women's Wellness Clinic

690 Mclean Street 250-992-8472

No Appointment Necessary 10am - 5:30pm

Quesnel Community Garden



Please Join Us

Saturday, September 25th

11am—4pm

Harvest Barbeque & Garlic Workshop

Please call the Women's Centre for more info at 250-992-8472



Collective Wisdom

Take Back the Night

One out of every three women will be a victim of violence in her lifetime. 1 -2 women are murdered by a partner or ex-partner in Canada per week. Each year, women's shelters take in between 90,000 to 100,000 women who have experienced violence. In our own community, our transition house shelters over 200 women annually. Quesnel is home to 8 murdered women and five missing women. These are the facts. The statistics are shocking. Quesnel is no stranger to violence against women, nor are we isolated. Female targeted violence continues to be a human rights violation in our community and in communities around the world.

Violence affects the lives of millions of women in all social and economic classes.

Unfortunately, the majority of violence against women is precipitated by someone the woman knows, and often happens within her own home.

Take Back the Night is an opportunity for people to come together to raise awareness, protest, and reclaim women's right to be safe and free from violence in their homes and their communities. Take Back the Night is an international event that happens in cities and communities around the globe. The first Take Back the Night occurred in 1975 in the United States. A young woman named Susan Speeth, walking alone one evening, was stabbed by a stranger a block away from her home. Canadian women held their first march in 1978, in Vancouver; and it was at this time that the third Friday in September was nationally declared "Take Back the Night". Each year, the Quesnel Women's Resource Centre organizes the annual march in Quesnel. Every person is welcome to attend and show their support for this important issue.

Donations to the QWRC directly benefit all women and children in our community. We receive no government operational funding and the "silent partners" who make donations, large or small, help us to help others live better lives. Donations can be made by visiting our website at www.qwrc.ca and clicking on *support us* or by mailing/dropping of a donation to the Centre. A charitable tax receipt will be issued if desired.

Donation Slip to the Quesnel Women's Resource Centre

Donation From:

Name: _____

Address:

Amount: _____



Collective Wisdom



Quesnel Women's
Resource Centre
690 McLean Street
Quesnel, BC, V2J 2P6

Phone: 250-992-8472
Fax: 250-992-6160
E-mail: qwrc@shawcable.com
Website: www.qwrc.ca



Luna Women's Wellness Clinic

"A woman centred clinic where you get the time to ask questions related to your health"

Thursdays 12pm-4pm

Services offered include:

- Pap Exams •Birth control •Pregnancy Testing
- Emergency Contraceptive •STI Testing
- Breast Self -Exams

Free and Confidential. No appointment necessary
Childminding available

Located in the
Women's Resource Centre
690 McLean Street
250-992-8472
<http://www.qwrc.ca>

What's Happening At the Women's Centre?

Self-esteem and Assertiveness Group: New group starts Tuesday, September 28th 10 am—12 pm. Call 250-992-8472 to join.

Community Garden Workshops:

September 22: **Jams and Jellies.** 10 am at the Women's Centre

September 25th: **Grow your own Garlic.** 2 pm at the Community Garden

September 29th: **Preserving your Apples.** 10 am at the Women's Centre

October 6th: **Thanksgiving Pies.** 10 am at the Women's Centre

** Please call 250-992-8472 to pre-register or for more information. All workshops are free of charge.

General Collective Meeting: Third Thursday of every month at 3:30 pm. All women welcome. Call the Women's Centre for more information.

Counseling / Outreach Services: Free confidential counseling and outreach services for women who have experienced sexual assault, violence/abuse, or historical sexual abuse. Call the Centre to book an appointment.