

Women's Centre key supporter of AIDS PEI

By MELISSA DOUCETTE

This Christmas, the UPEI Women's Centre is renewing its commitment to AIDS PEI. As in previous years, the Centre is selling tickets for the 12 Days of Christmas, and fundraising project of AIDS PEI.

The 12 Days of Christmas project is unique to the Island. The idea was generated almost ten years ago by an individual at The Dunes, a gallery and restaurant located in Brackley. The project has been gaining momentum ever since.

Now, over 150 Island businesses contribute to the endeavour. Their donations of gift certificates and prizes all go toward twelve daily draws, beginning December 7 and ending December 18.

On each of these twelve days, the top winner receives over \$1100 in prizes.

"The tickets sell themselves," comments a representative from AIDS PEI.

Since its inception, the 12 Days of Christmas draw has raised anywhere from \$8,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Being involved with AIDS PEI is important to the

Women's Centre for a number of reasons. Although it promotes the positive impact the Centre has on the Island community, the AIDS cause also touches a personal note with many people.

As well, the fastest

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But the 12 Days of Christmas project is only one connection the Women's Centre has with AIDS PEI.

At this year's annual Walk for Life, held September 27, the Women's Centre was named the top fundraiser for an educational group. The Walk is another fundraising tool for AIDS research.

The Centre raised over \$500 at this year's Walk, the third year the Centre entered a team.

Centre volunteers were enthusiastic when the ideal of participating in the Walk was discussed. It catalysed an "automatic positive

response," according to one volunteer.

Despite the bad weather, the team of Centre volunteers walked the full seven-and-one-half kilometres. Although the rain kept some people from attending, it did not affect fundraising efforts.

Support from the Island community was evident at the Walk. The participants were given a police escort, and were provided with food and drink. Local radio station Magic 93 played music for the walkers, and door prizes such as teddy bears and kites were donated by local businesses. An aerobics instructor from a local fitness facility led the warm-up, free of charge.

Trish Daley, a Centre volunteer, initiated a 50/50 draw to raise money. The person who won immediately donated the money back, without prompting from anyone.

Tickets for the 12 Days of Christmas fundraiser cost \$5 each, and are available at the Women's Centre until Friday, December 4. Anyone wishing to help support AIDS PEI can contact Ruth at the Women's Centre, or call AIDS PEI at 566-2437.



UPEI Women's Centre, an active member in the fight against AIDS

-photo by Richard Haines

New Student Building at UPEI

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up for lack of experience in this area.

In choosing the site, the committee kept certain issues at the forefront. The union wanted the new centre to provide better services to students in a more convenient setting, and be more than a place people go to at night. At many universities, the student centre is the heart of campus life, and the union wished to move in that direction.

Eventually, the university and the union agreed upon the tennis courts for the site for the SUB 2000. In Spring '98, Dr. Elizabeth Epperly, then university president, officially offered the site to the union.

With the site taken care of, the SUB 2000 project is ready to move into its next phases. Fundraising has to be completed, a design needs to be chosen, building space has to be designated to on-campus groups, and more.

The year 2000 is when construction is estimated to start on the new building. Once completed, the Barn will be torn down.

The new student union centre will represent the end of one era, and the beginning of another.

Author's note :thanks to Heather Love for her assistance.

UPEI Centre for writing

Established to provide students with assistance in their academic writing skills

By ERIN FAGAN

A new UPEI Centre for Writing, currently situated in the Learning Assistance Centre in the Robertson Library (room 106), has been established to provide students with assistance in their academic writing skills.

Through the initiatives of Professor Wendy Shilton and Linda Meggs, an English-as-a-second-language (ESL) instructor, the centre has been providing volunteer coaching with Faculty of Education students since mid-September.

"We are hoping it is the precursor of a bigger centre in the near future," said Meggs while describing the project.

She added that Shilton is currently putting forth the proposal for a permanent home.

"We would like to have a comfortable lounge for students to work on projects, a computer lab, and eventually a conferencing room. Working with other [education] students hopefully will make the process seem less intimidating [for students]," Meggs explained.

"I think everyone, to a degree, experiences angst surrounding academic writing."

Some of the inspiration for this new initiative, according to Meggs, came from her own experience as an ESL instructor. Her class focuses on writing improvement, as well as on communication skills for foreign students.

"There had not been much support until this point," she explained.

Currently, there are several volunteer coaches who are available in the Learning Assistance Centre, Monday through Thursday from 6 to 8 pm. However, it has been suggested by the volunteers that hours from 4 to 6 may be more accessible for students.

As volunteers are "anxiously awaiting" participants, Meggs expressed a need to get as many informed about the Centre as possible.

Meggs also stressed that the centre would focus on the writing process as a whole, and would refrain from simply revising student's papers.