

Safe housing reaches out to community resources

by Heidi Riley



Philip Matusiewicz and Ellen Ridgeway of PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc. are looking forward to repairs and upgrades that will make Anderson House more welcoming to the women and children who find refuge there.

For the past 30 years, **Anderson House** has provided a safe environment for women and children during times of crisis.

It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff provide confidential crisis and phone support, outreach services, second stage housing and public education on preventing family violence. More than 80 women have used its services this past year.

Now Anderson House needs help of its own. Over the years, the 20-bed century-old building has suffered water damage from a leaky roof. As well, bathrooms, common rooms, bedrooms and the kitchen need upgrades.

A fundraising campaign is underway to pay for an estimated \$300,000 needed for repairs. Funds will also be set aside for future repairs and upkeep of second stage properties, which are secure apartments that women can choose to move to after leaving Anderson House. These properties are in O'Leary, Summerside, Charlottetown, and Montague.

Support for the project is coming in from the province and from private and corporate donors.

Work Experience PEI

A **SkillsPEI** program called **Work Experience PEI** is helping to fund part of the cost of building materials and wages for five people who will do some of the repairs and upgrades. This program helps organizations take on projects that provide valuable work experience that help job seekers build their skills. Funded in whole or in part through the Canada/PEI Labour Market Development Agreement and/or the Labour Market Agreement.

"We are in the process of hiring five workers," says **Philip Matusiewicz**, Executive Director of **PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.**

"In the 16 weeks they will be on the job, they will be learning carpentry skills as they make repairs to the house," says Philip. Under the supervision of a licensed contractor, they will be hanging doors, installing windows, drywall, and insulation, taking down wallpaper, and painting. They will also learn about framing new construction as they add a second storey to the house's multipurpose room.

For more information about **Anderson House**, call 894-3354. Visit www.fvps.ca

For more information about **SkillsPEI**, contact an office near you:

Charlottetown: Atlantic Technology Centre...368-6290

Summerside: Access PEI.....438-4151

O'Leary: Future Tech West.....859-8898

Montague: 541 Main Street.....838-0674

Visit the website at www.skillspei.com



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Finding the best employer/employee match

by Patricia Roy

For **Judy Hynes**, who is deaf, her employment match could not be any more perfect.

When Judy walked into **Pins and Needles** sewing shop in Summerside to apply for a job, her boyfriend came in with her to translate Judy's sign language. Much to their surprise, store owner **Sylvia Doiron** responded with sign language.

"Having an employer who can use sign language instead of having to write everything down is a real plus," Judy signs with a smile.

Sylvia learned sign language years ago from a friend whose parents were deaf. "Judy was the kind of person I was looking for," says Sylvia. "She has been here for over two months now and is an excellent worker. She fits in very well with my other two employees, who are now learning sign language. She is a team player who is eager to learn new things and is always cheerful."

Judy is one of two sets of twins in a family of 15. Their late mom contracted German measles while pregnant with her and her twin brother. Both were born deaf as a result. Judy learned to sew from her mom and through courses in high school. She has worked as a seamstress most of her adult life. "Finding a job since moving to PEI from Newfoundland four years ago has been difficult," she says through her translator.

Help from the PEI Council of People with Disabilities

"The PEI Council of People with Disabilities (PEICOD) in Summerside has been great in helping me find employment," says Judy.

Nancymarie Arsenault is an Employment Specialist with PEICOD. She works with clients in East and West Prince who are in career decision making, job search, skills training or in a wage subsidy work experience. Job coaching and employment maintenance is also offered.

"The council's role is to promote the full participation and inclusion of people with physical disabilities into Island society," says Nancymarie.

"The employers who participate in the program and employ our clients are just wonderful. Getting that first introduction and matching people with employers is often a great benefit to both."

This project was funded by the Government of Canada

The **PEICOD** office in Summerside recently moved to 11 Water Street.

For more information, call 436-9259.

Visit the new website at www.peicod.pe.ca

For more information about **Pins & Needles**, call 888-3434.

Visit www.peisewing.com



Judy Hynes, left, with Nancymarie Arsenault, Employment Specialist with the PEI Council of People with Disabilities and Sylvia Doiron, Owner of Pins & Needles in Summerside.