

There is quite a history to this anthology issue of *CWS/cf*. The first stage of planning, going back some time, was for a glorious, glossy celebration of our completion of 10 years' publication. In the midst of production, on December 6, 1989, we were paralyzed by news of the Montreal massacre — the only avenue for our shock and grief seemed to be to alter the whole focus of the issue so as to include those articles from *CWS/cf* that dealt with the problem of violence against women during the 1980s, and to dedicate it to the murdered women.

In the wake of the massacre, one might have hoped for an increase in federal support for women's programs; ironically, the response was instead to eliminate funding for women's centres and publications. Last February, *CWS/cf's* operational funding was cut by 100%. Facing what seemed like imminent collapse, the anthology issue was shelved, and the journal joined with other women's groups to protest the cuts through political action.

At *CWS/cf* we were able to bring out two issues in 1990, ones to which we had been committed for some time and for which the contributors and guest editors had already done the major portion of the work. We thought we had enough money left to do a "bargain basement" issue, to go out to our subscribers, as a final statement.

As it turns out, this is not, after all, our last gasp. In the past months we have been able to secure sufficient funding to get the journal through another four issues, of which this is the first. The two middle issues, dedicated to the memory of the Ecole Polytechnique students, will

deal with "Violence Against Women" and "Strategies for Change." The fourth will be devoted to "Women and Aging."

So this anthology, "A Decade of *CWS/cf*," has emerged in yet another form. The format is for the sake of frugality; but thanks to our renewed resources, we expect to return to our usual format in subsequent issues. The articles, arranged for the most part chronologically, have been selected with an eye to giving as broad as possible a view of what has been going on in the women's movement and in women's lives in Canada during the '80s — to show how varied the endeavours of some of the most important writers and activists were, which problems have moved towards resolution, which have proven to be most resistant to change. This collection is thus a reiteration of *CWS/cf's* commitment since we first began publication: to record the perspectives

and experiences of all women, and by strengthening our mutual knowledge and understanding, to play an active part in advancing the movement.

In our effort to be comprehensive, we have included pieces on women and the economy, peace and violence, race, ethnicity and language, literacy and education, aging, motherhood and the family, child care and housework, as well as a number of pieces that try to identify the sources of the sexism we continue to face in contemporary society. It is impressive to see how much has been accomplished but sobering to see how much still remains to be done.

We are glad to be able to report ourselves alive and well, and we particularly want to express our gratitude to you, our loyal *CWS/cf* subscribers, for keeping us going during this past difficult year. Thank you!



Shelagh Wilkinson (left) and Marion Lynn, co-founders of CWS/cf, celebrating the publication of the first issue of CWS/cf at Centennial College in 1978.

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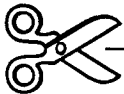
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Due to financial restraints, and uncertainty of funding, it will not be possible to publish short fiction in every issue of *CWS/cf*. For this reason we no longer actively solicit it, but we will make every effort to accommodate topical fiction of exceptional quality.

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