

Few attend women's program

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer
Only a handful of women showed up at the Oakville campus of Sheridan College on Saturday to hear lectures on time management, verbal skills and progress being made by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Carol Yuzwa addressed the group on ways to steer a conversation or an interview without arousing hostility or animosity.

She pointed out ways to let someone else know you disagree without angering the person to whom you are speaking.

Producing information to support your position helps to disarm opponents when you have no mutual ground in your discussion.

Picking up part of a statement and using it to direct the conversation on a tangent that leads away from a subject which is too personal to be discussed or likely to arouse anger because you disagree with the speaker helps to keep conversation flowing smoothly.

Although people often instinctively use the techniques she described the person who is at home or in his normal surroundings will probably have the advantage because people usually lose a bit of their self-confidence once they enter unfamiliar territory.

Ada Hill told the group how to work out a way to manage their time to produce the results they wish to achieve. Delegating responsibility whenever possible, setting priorities so most important tasks are done first, setting aside time during the day to cover for unexpected occurrences and putting your most important tasks at the time of the day when you work best helps you to achieve the most in the least amount of time.

Ms Hill advised her audience to make a daily list of things they hope to achieve each day.

The list must be written down so that it can't be forgotten or ignored, she says. She warned the group that tasks which are too big are frightening and therefore tend to be set aside and left untouched day after day. To get around this situation she suggests that tasks of this sort be broken down into component parts and tackled a bit at a time. Then they can be accomplished because each piece is manageable and therefore not frightening.

She notes that being effective is more important than being efficient. An effective person figures out what task needs doing, then sets out to do it well. An efficient person, however, just does the task well and never stops to consider if it is the task that needs doing. Thus he may work well but on all the wrong things.

Lorna Marsden, past president of the national action committee on the status of women, told the group that while the press may be saying the movement is dead and its aims are losing ground this is far from true. Membership in the movement has trebled in the last two years she says, and while the committee may not be totally satisfied that its aims have been achieved, certain things have been achieved and they should not be overlooked.

What the movement needs most at this time, Ms. Marsden says, is leadership. Many interest groups have joined the movement but committee members must keep their goals clearly before them. Their big danger at this point is that of being diverted into some other area such as political party or the abortion issue. Were this to happen the movement would be finished, she warns.

Since most women have other interests as well as their interest in the women's movement she reminds them that the committee is not a spokesman for any one group. The leaders should give guidance to help members avoid conflicts in their various roles as individuals.

All the social movements have fallen apart at some point, she notes, usually over a regional issue. Although the National Council of Women is still strong it too faces divisive regional issues. Members and leaders must set up priorities for the council and stick to them.

Ms. Marsden feels that women should be able to plug in or out of the movement as it becomes necessary and nobody should feel guilty because they haven't any time for the movement at a particular stage in their life.

When it comes to dealing with officials in government or business Ms. Marsden advises women not to become hostile. "Wear them down with repetition and friendship," she says, then "give them something to do" which will benefit the movement and give them a sense of accomplishment in helping women.

Canadian in general have a more positive attitude towards changing the status of women than do our American neighbors, she says.

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