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Safety network set to fold

Neighbourhood Watch desperate for funds, volunteers

By Howard Mozel

OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

If Oakville Neighbourhood Watch does not receive immediate support, says Chair Nicholas White, the organization will have no choice but to fold.

"It will be gone, extinct," he said.

According to White, support is desperately needed both financially and from volunteers willing to serve on its board, as well as from residents ready to maintain a viable network of community-minded homeowners across town.

"We need more members who can contribute and more police support," said White.

Oakville Neighbourhood Watch also needs money to pay for its Web site and office staff, which issues the Crime Report to alert members. (There are currently 79 active zones in Oakville, each

(See 'Program' page A5)

Flynn heads up justice and social committee

Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn has been elected Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Social Policy.

This key Legislative committee is empowered to study and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, organization or operation of the ministries and offices which are assigned to it, as well as the agencies, boards and commissions reporting to such ministries and offices.

The Chair sets the agenda for meetings, manages debate and casts the tie-breaking vote.

"I will be bringing the perspective of a person from Oakville to the management of this committee," said Flynn. "I want it to run efficiently, but also for its members to never lose sight of the people who

(See 'Committee' page A2)



Chantal Ayotte • Special to the Oakville Beaver

LIGHTING THE WAY: Ian Anderson House, in keeping with hospice tradition worldwide, held its annual Tree of Lights ceremony Sunday evening. Each \$20 donation lit one bulb in memory of, or to honour, a loved one. About 120 people enjoyed Christmas carols and hot cider. Although the total is being tallied, it's hoped that the cost of one week's operation - \$8,400 - will be raised. On Nov. 17, the hospice marked the sixth anniversary of the admission of its first patient. Almost 500 residents have passed through the house during that time.



Jill Kitchener • Special to the Oakville Beaver

Dan Smith, Scotty McColeman, Larry Pratt, Gary Shillington and Emell Mesic stand in a moment of silence behind the candles they lit in remembrance of the 14 women killed at l'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal 14 years ago.

CAW lights candles for 14 victims of Montreal massacre

By Kim Amott

SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

It has been 14 years, but we still remember. We still remember the crazed gunman who shot 14 engineering students in Montreal, simply because they were women.

We still remember the names of those women - names that we recite every year as we light white candles and mourn their early deaths.

We have our collective memory of the massacre at l'Ecole Polytechnique, and we have Dec. 6 as a national day of remembrance and action on violence against women.

Still, too little has been accomplished in the last 14 years to prevent violence against women, says Joanne Preston, executive director for SAVIS (Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Service) of Halton.

"It's now 2003," she said at a candlelight vigil organized by the local branch of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW 707) on Saturday. "In the last week and a half in Ontario, two women have been murdered by their current or estranged partners and one woman has survived being shot in the head by her husband."

In the years since the Montreal massacre, public awareness of violence

(See 'Violence' page A5)

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