

# Female abuse a societal problem

People are beginning to wake up to the realization that female abuse isn't a women's issue, but rather a societal problem, says Halton Hills Councillor Pam Johnston.

The councillor said she feels confident making that statement, especially as it pertains to the local community, given the number of men who attended a public workshop at Georgetown's Cultural Centre Tuesday on how Halton Region can better service abused women, the councillor spearheaded.

"The turnout of men was fabulous," said Coun. Johnston during an interview Wednesday. Although Coun. Johnston didn't have exact attendance figures, she said a significantly large percentage of the 65 people who attended the workshop were men.

"The high turnout of men shows that people are beginning to recognize that abuse of



**Pam Johnston**

females is a societal problem and family issue, instead of a women's issue," said Coun. Johnston.

Coun. Johnston organized the workshop as a first step in star-

ting up a Region-wide program to better service abused women in Halton.

The program would help abused women following the "six week crisis period" they experience immediately after suffering mental or physical trauma. The program would address the long-term emotional and physical well-being needs for abused women, said Coun. Johnston.

"Right now there is nothing like that in Halton," she said.

The workshop focused on how best to set up the program. A committee was struck, said Coun. Johnston, which will consider whether a private corporation should provide the program or an existing Halton social service group should administer it.

She explained several issues need to be considered to determine the appropriate option including the current lack of transitional and long-term affordable housing and counselling services for abused women.

Without more suitable housing and better counselling services, the trend of abused women returning to their abusers will continue, she said.

Speakers attending the workshop included representatives from the Halton Regional Police Force, the Halton Social Planning Council and Halton Women's Place.

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## Come 'Back To Acton'

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce welcomes the notorious "Black Bart" alias Jim Flett to the "Back to Acton Days" celebration, Saturday, June 15.

Black Bart, one of North America's fastest guns, has appeared in many movies, TV commercials, grand openings, and stunt work. He holds the Canadian Record for fast draw at 3/100 of a second.

He will be challenging all you quick draw artists from 12-5 p.m.,

Saturday. So come out to Prospect Park and try your luck.

Along with Black Bart will be Country and Western singer "Tom Destry" as entertainer and M.C. of the show.

Also included in the entertainment will be pony rides for the little cowpokes and a demonstration of modern square dancing by the "Star Thru Squares Club", organized two years ago in Acton.

All activities take place at Acton's Prospect Park.

### Schedule of Events

7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- 7 a.m. - Fishing Derby registration opens.
- 8 a.m.-11 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast.
- 9 a.m. - Cruise cars begin entering park.
- 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - Hot air balloon rides for kids and grown up kids.
- 9 a.m.-10 a.m. - 11 a.m.- 12 noon - 2 p.m.-3 p.m. - Horse pitching registration. Cash prizes. Sponsored by Acton Rotary Club.
- 10 a.m. - Face painting and free helium balloons for all kids.
- 11 a.m. - Black Bart begins his show with his country and western singer accompanied by the Acton Square Dancers.
- 11 a.m. - Pony rides open.
- 11:30 a.m. - Parade begins through Downtown Acton.
- 11:30 a.m. - Beef Bar-B-Q, hot dogs, french fries, and beer garden opens.
- 12 noon - Team Bad Guy Ontario Champion Bike Riders put on their first performance.
- 1:00 p.m. Remote control air show begins with several planes from both the Milton and Georgetown Flying Clubs.

Other Activities Taking Place All Day

## Open House

This Sunday Springridge Farm will hold an Open House to celebrate the opening of their renovated 19th century barn market and bakery. Free wagon rides, hiking on their escarpment property, picnic area, farm animals, playground, country crafts and gifts. No admission ever! Bell School Line, just north of Derry Road in Milton (416)878-4908.

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