

Wednesday, November 6, 1991

Community

Family Violence

Unchecked violence will increase

By JACIE B. PALMER
Herald Special

Most articles and studies agree that abuse is a learned behavior which once begun will repeat itself through generations of a family if it is not stopped. Because most of their life together is good, women in violent situations often have a difficult time dealing with the casual problem of abuse. They don't want the relationship to end, the victims want the violence to stop.

Because the abusive male partner is not all bad and because during the non-abusive periods he may be an excellent companion, the victim has grave difficulties in admitting the problem. She cannot acknowledge her part in condoning the problem because often the abuser has conditioned her to accept blame for the violence. She accepts the blame easily because she wants to deny the problem the magnitude of the problem.

Once the victim has admitted abuse exists and attempted to make changes, she will often find herself unable to deal with the finality of divorce or failure of the relationship. The relationship has been her dream. She desires the love, marriage, children scenario to continue for the rest of her life. She loves him despite the abuse. She understands his moods, his stress levels, his poor childhood, his job problems, the drinking and believes she can nurture the situation and that time will heal everything.

Is she helping her partner in condoning his unacceptable behavior? Absolutely not! Unless intervention and counselling occur, studies reveal that violence will often re-occur with increasing frequency and intensity the longer it remains unchecked.

The victim may describe herself as: "addicted to his attention" or "in love with him in spite of it all." Most of all, she believes he will change. Crisis is the fastest tool to bring about change. A war, a crisis in business or a crisis in personal life ensure reactions. The critical situation must have our immediate reaction and attention. We have no choice in the matter.



Most abusers know the limits of their victims well and do not cross those boundaries. They know the victim will forgive and forget for all the reasons they can both muster. They both perpetuate that cycle of abuse and neither receive the required help to solve the problem.

How about trying rejection? Total rejection. Complete rejection. Finality.

That should put the abuser in crisis. That should bring about some kind of reaction. There is a line of a poem which elicits the sentiment that if you really love someone you can set that person free and if the love is real that person will return to you and the relationship survive and will become better.

A woman who cares enough for herself and her children to reject her mate may be doing him the biggest favor of his life. In forcing him to deal with his abusive nature and in forcing him to view the affect of the abuse on his family he has the opportunity to formulate change that will enhance their lives together. He has the opportunity to seek

counselling.

Yes, that woman is taking a chance. He may well misinterpret the reasons for rejection but she has already decided a life without abuse is preferable because it is positive and productive for herself and her family. She may be having grave difficulties in dealing with her future prospects. She wants him to know she loves him but she realizes that if she in any way reveals her true feelings she will be in difficulty once more.

Her rejection must be strongly and clearly stated. She must not waver because if she does he will recognize their former pattern of forgiveness and not take her seriously. A victim taking this approach will be a leech as she sucks all the support she can from friends and professionals. It will be all she can do to stay away from her partner and all she can do to not have contact with him.

She needs to be continually reminded that she is taking appropriate action to ensure a higher quality of life for herself and her family. She may be confused, emotionally distraught, anxious, guilty, ashamed or irrational but she may be taking the best action of her life. She is emotionally torn apart.

The myriad of feelings experienced by the abused are difficult to logically analyze. Outsiders often misunderstand but must remain openly supportive and non-judgmental of this woman who is taking a giant step forward to help herself and her family.

Feel free to contact Jacie by directing letters to her attention at the Herald. All correspondence will remain confidential. Should you wish to speak to Jacie, call the Distress Centre at 877-2111 and your call will be returned. If you are a woman or child in crisis or an abusive male wanting help, call the Distress Centre or dial 911.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"

THE CORPORATION OF THE
Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive — P.O. Box 128
HALTON HILLS (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 5G2
873-2600

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1991 IN GEORGETOWN

On Monday, November 25, 1991, the Council, of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills, intends to pass a by-law to close, temporarily, various roads in the Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown) on Saturday, November 30, 1991, from approximately 1:00 p.m., until approximately 3:00 p.m., for the purpose of the Georgetown Lions Club Inc.'s Annual Santa Claus Parade. The parade route will be as follows:

The parade will form on Sinclair Avenue, travel through the Georgetown Market to Mountainview Road at Campbell Gate, follow Mountainview Road to Guelph Street, Guelph Street to Maple Avenue, Maple Avenue to Main Street, and Main Street to James Street where it will disperse.

The Council Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1 Halton Hills Drive. At this meeting, Council will hear, in person, or by his counsel, any person who claims his lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Town Clerk at 873-2600, before the Council Meeting.

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<p>MIRACLE COUPON 2.09</p> <p>Assorted Flavours Fruit Bottom</p> <h1>Yoplait Yogourt</h1> <p>12x175 g tubs</p> <h1>12/4.99</h1> <p>WITH THIS COUPON</p> <p>Limit two coupons per customer Limit 12 tubs per coupon Valid Nov. 4 until Nov. 9 '91 Special price without coupon is .89 each</p>	<p>MIRACLE COUPON 2.00</p> <p>CLOVER LEAF SOLID WHITE TUNA</p> <p>198 g tin</p> <h1>1.99</h1> <p>WITH THIS COUPON</p> <p>Limit one case per coupon Valid Nov. 4 until Nov. 9 '91 Special price without coupon is 3.99</p>
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<p>Product of U.S.A. - No. 1 Grade CALIFORNIA FRESH</p> <h1>ICEBERG LETTUCE</h1> <p>each</p> <h1>.69</h1>	<p>MIRACLE COUPON 1.99/G206/GP221</p> <p>Assorted Varieties</p> <h1>Pamper Cat Food</h1> <p>case of 24x170 184 g tins</p> <h1>5.99</h1> <p>WITH THIS COUPON</p> <p>Limit one case per coupon Valid Nov. 4 until Nov. 9 '91 Special price without coupon is 7.99 each</p>
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