

Halton women march on courts

By JANET BAINE

"Women united will never be defeated, gentlemen," one demonstrator said in a strong voice when she arrived in the hallway by the Milton courtrooms Tuesday afternoon.

"Oh yeah?" responded one of several men in suits who were standing in the hallway.

"Oh yeah," the woman said. None of the men replied.

The woman was demonstrating with about 25 others at the court-

house in Milton to protest the Canadian Supreme Court decision to strike down the Rape Shield Law.

This was the third Halton demonstration: the other two were held in Burlington after the August 22 court decision was made. No further demonstrations are planned in Halton at this time.

The women held placards, chanted slogans and marched in a circle in front of the courthouse for about a half hour. They then headed in the front door of the courthouse, walked through the land registry office, and marched in the hallway by the courtrooms.

The demonstration was orderly following the brief exchange and after a few minutes, the women went back downstairs and circled around the outside of the building.

The demonstration was organized by three women's groups: Women of Halton Action Movement, Halton Women's Place and the Halton Rape Crisis Centre.

"(We're demonstrating) to raise the awareness of everyone, particularly those in the legal system," said Judy Shpeley, the treasurer of Halton Rape Crisis Centre. "Sexual assault is a silent crime that most women keep silent. By protesting and walking, we're refusing to be silenced anymore."

Shpeley said statistics from both her organization and the police show that only one in ten women who have been sexually assaulted will take the case to court. The court ruling will act to further silence women, she said.

Shpeley added, "Women are not

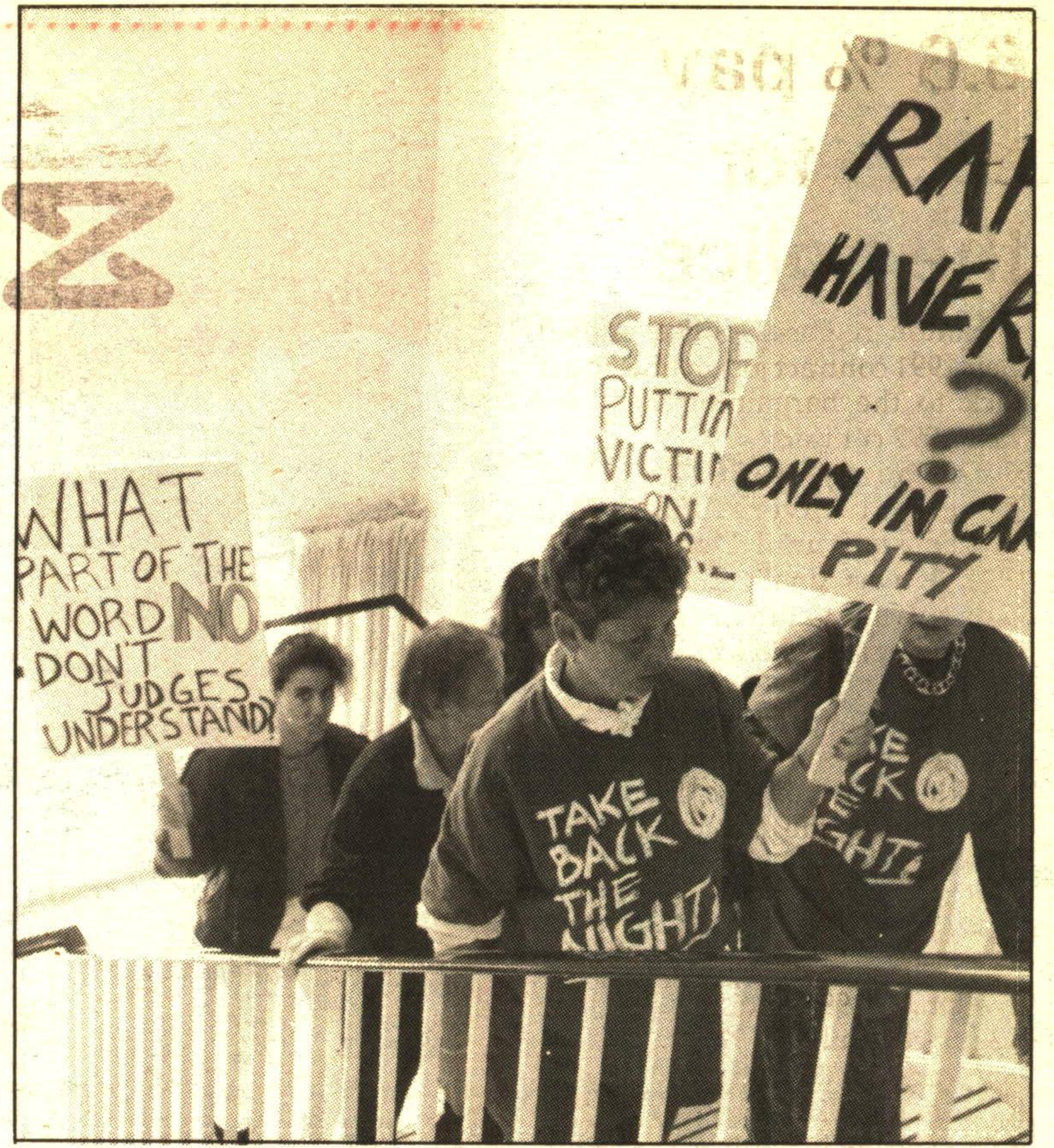
going to lay down and take this; hopefully it will move our legislators to give women rights. Now perpetrators have all the rights."

On August 22, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in a 7-2 decision that rape victims can be questioned in court about their sexual history. The 1983 law prohibited defence lawyers, except in rare circumstances, from asking a victim about her past sexual activity with someone other than the person charged with the crime.

"In achieving its purpose — the abolition of the outmoded, sexist-based use of sexual conduct evidence — it overshoots the mark and renders inadmissible evidence which may be essential to the presentation of legitimate defences and hence a fair trial," Madam Justice Beverley McLaughlin wrote in the ruling.

Two Toronto men challenged the law, claiming they wouldn't receive a fair trial unless their lawyers could question the women who accused them of sexual assault.

Local women's groups, however, argue the court ruling shows that the law considers the rights of the woman to be less than the rights of the man who did the assault.



MARCHING FOR JUSTICE

Approximately 25 women marched through the Milton courthouse Tuesday to protest the Supreme Court ruling that repealed the Rape Shield Law.

Police beat

Lost control

A car was totalled in an accident Saturday close to midnight, but the driver and three passengers received only minimal injuries. The car was northbound on Winston Churchill Blvd. near 10 Sdrd. when the driver lost control and hit a hydro pole, police said. The driver was charged with careless driving. He and two of the passengers were from Georgetown, while the third passenger was from Norval, police said.

Liquor, cigarettes stolen

Overnight Friday, the Georgetown Open Kitchen was broken into and \$3,686 worth of items were taken. Entry was gained by kicking in the rear door, police said. Five 40-ounce bottles of alcohol were taken, a gold watch, a calculator, \$60 in change and \$1,386 worth of cigarettes.

Volunteers needed for Rape Crisis Centre

Fall training program begins Monday

will give women interested in volunteering at the centre additional information.

The Halton Rape Crisis Centre provides a 24-hour sexual assault crisis line, staffed by both volun-

teers and employees. The crisis line can only continue to exist because of its strong volunteer base. An answering service allows volunteers to work in their own homes, and pagers are also available to provide more convenience and flexibility. Crisis line workers provide non-judgemental emotional support and help the caller to identify and examine her options. Volunteers may also be required to provide accompaniment of victims to hospital, the police station or court.

Volunteers may also be used to assist with peer support groups which help survivors of sexual assault. Groups are organized by the Centre's group coordinator and co-facilitated by staff and volunteers.

Public education is provided by the public education coordinator and volunteers who are members of the education committee. Speakers increase awareness of sexual assault issues and sensitivity to victims, as well as a proactive role in prevention because they debunk old rape myths and provide accurate information.

There is no typical or perfect volunteer. The women at the centre vary tremendously in age, education, background and experience. What they all have in common is a commitment to the women of Halton who use the service, and a deep conviction that the work is important.

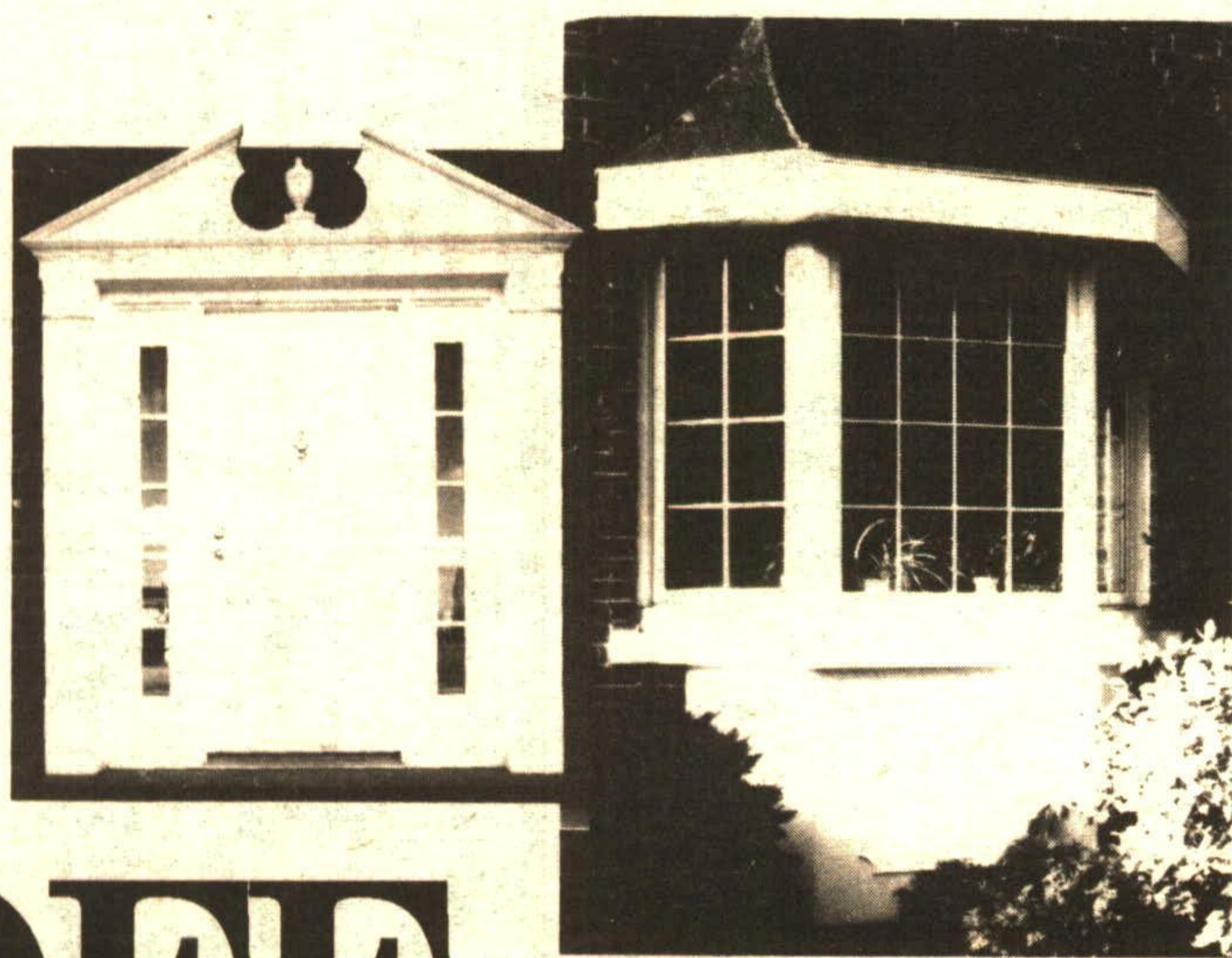
Some of the personal skills that help volunteers are a highly developed sense of responsibility, excellent communication skills and an ability to empathize with others.

For more information about volunteering at the Halton Rape Crisis Centre, please contact Margaret Perry at 634-8182.

Windows & Doors by Ridley

6th

Annual Fall Sale



25% OFF

This year, more than ever, smart homeowners are shopping at RIDLEY'S ANNUAL FALL SALE to make every dollar count. For our sixth consecutive year we are offering honest savings on ALL of our windows, doors & architectural mouldings. **INSTALLATION INCLUDED. 25% OFF** all wood, aluminum and vinyl windows; steel, fibreglass, wood & aluminum doors; interior French doors; elegant entrances and surrounds; plus much more. If you haven't shopped at Ridley before, join the thousands of satisfied Ridley customers for all your window & door needs. **Our aim is customer satisfaction.**

— INSTALLATIONS — REPLACEMENTS

— NEW CONSTRUCTION

For a Free

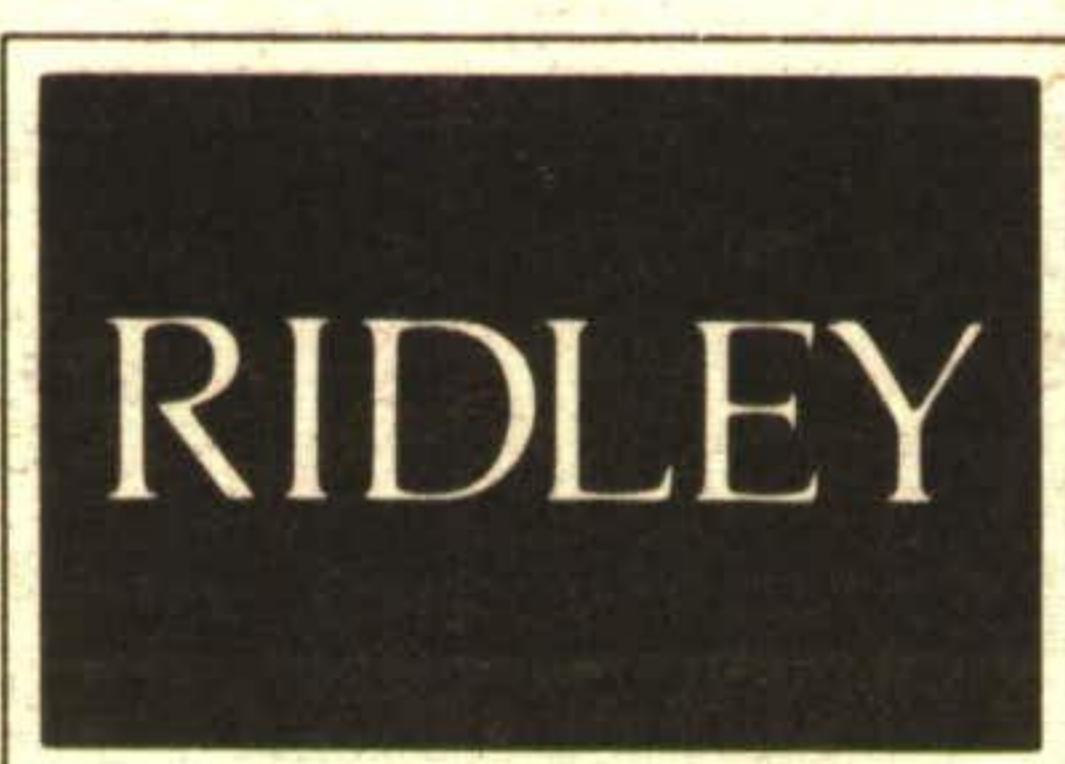
In-Home Estimate

call:

Georgetown **854-2228**

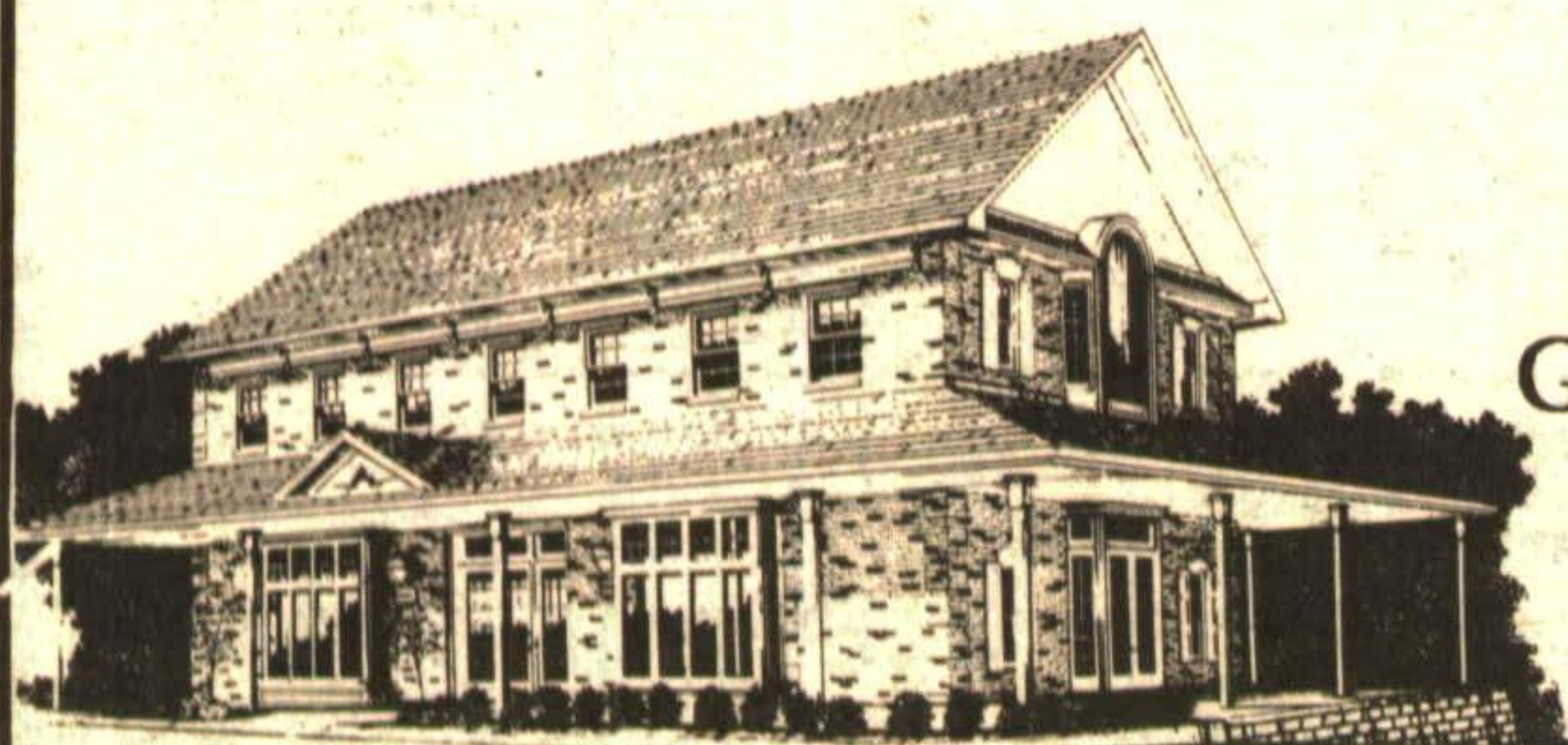
Areas to north, call

1-800-668-5156



Affordable Elegance®

WINDOWS & DOORS



Visit our Showroom at 35 Crawford Cr., Campbellville.

Mon. - Wed. 8-6, Thurs. - Fri. 8-8, Sat. 9-5

SERVING SOUTHERN ONTARIO

FEATURE PRICE

2%

MILK

4L BAG

2.99

LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER

TOMATOES

79¢ LB

CABANA CHIPS

99¢

LARGE BAG

FIELD CUCUMBERS

2/89¢

CELERY & ROMAINE

79¢ EA

G.T. Paradise

30 Main St. S.

873-8242

DEAL DIRECT WITH THE LENDER...

- First, Second & Interim Mortgages
- Home Improvement Loans
- Revolving Lines of Credit for Growing Businesses
- Rental Investment Properties
- Letters of Credit & Financial Guarantees
- Residential Commercial Industrial Mortgages

452-8899 1-800-465-7123
GICS, RRSPS, MORTGAGE INVESTMENT

HOLDEN FINANCIAL CORPORATION
41 George St. S., Brampton
Hours: 8:30 - 5:30
Mon.-Fri.