

## OUR VIEW

# Action needed to end violence against women

A silent epidemic lurks in every community in Ontario.

It affects and hurts all of us. It's something not talked about at the dinner table, and yet could be happening in your very own home, or the home right next door.

For far too long, violence against women and children has gone on and the victims have remained silent and fearful.

Now is the time to speak up and show your support to those who suffer in silence.

To mark Women Abuse Prevention Month in November, the Wrapped in Courage campaign is encouraging everyone to buy a Wrapped in Courage scarf to support women's shelters and to let women and their children know that they are not alone.

Area organizations like Family Transition Place and the Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis in partnership with Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses is participating and asking for your support to help address the overlooked issue of woman abuse in Ontario.

The courage of a woman alone is not enough. It takes the commitment and support of an entire community to end violence against all women.

And it starts with each of us recognizing and offering support.

How can we be silent when we continue to see how violence against women continues to occur every day?

From November 2015 to November 2016 there were 29 women reported on, by the media in Ontario, who were murdered from either their current or previous intimate partner, according to the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses.

The facts surrounding violence against women should be concerning to all of us.

In 2015 and 2016, approximately 10,900 women and 6,700 children were served through shelters, and some 51,700 crisis calls were received on crisis lines for women, according to data from the Ministry of Community & Social Services.

On a snapshot day in Canada, 44 per cent of women shelters were full due to overcapacity and lack of resources to respond to requests, says Women Shelters Canada, Shelter Voices 2017.

What this means is that more support is needed to support women's shelters in Ontario in order to help as many women and their children as possible through safe housing, counselling, legal and outreach support services to assist women to live their lives free from violence.

It takes community involvement and support to make this happen.

To learn more about the Wrapped in Courage Campaign, visit [WrappedinCourage.ca](http://WrappedinCourage.ca).

Reported hospital violence incidents on the rise...

Emergency



## LETTERS & COMMENTARY

### It's time for Wynne and the Liberals to go

Recently, Premier Kathleen Wynne was in Acton. She visited McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School and the Acton Hub.

The media wasn't notified until it was too late to give the public notification of her visit and they were banned from observing everything except story time where she read to children.

I have questions and concerns.

Why are there secret government meetings taking place in Acton? Where is the transparency of our provincial government?

Why didn't the school or the community hub make the announcement?

Why was the press banned? Is our premier so

cowardly that she refuses to hear voices of opposition?

It is very concerning that our provincial government is being so secretive. Surely our town and regional government knew she was coming?

Halton MPP, Indira Naidoo-Harris, joined Wynne, yet no one said anything.

By now we should all be aware of the corruption of the Liberal party - now they are having secret meetings in our small towns.

In my opinion, no one wins with Wynne. I honestly hope she will be voted out in 2018.

I also hope that people will think about our local government, as they are also keeping secrets.

I don't expect to get any answers, as the Liberals like to dance around direct

questions and use deflection and distraction to escape answering.

I write this letter today because everyone needs to give a lot of thought to our upcoming elections for all levels of government.

**Kerri Chaplin**

### Stop adding to insurance costs

We all know that insurance rates are incredibly high, well perhaps we need to stop complaining about it and take accountability for it.

Every day my drive to work and home becomes an obstacle course.

There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not almost hit because someone doesn't have the patience to wait that minute or two for the light to change. They

race through the amber at full speed, only be stopped at the next red light or in traffic.

What are signal lights, you ask?

They are that important part on a car that lets someone know you're changing lanes rather than just cut-over and not even pay attention to the fact someone is already in that lane.

And let's add distracted driving where talking on the phone is a normal occurrence.

We can't continue to complain about our insurance rates being high if as drivers you contribute to any of the above.

Is racing that light worth causing an accident?

Let's slow down and pay attention to the road, let's not add to those high rates.

**Kim O'Malley**

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