



Graham Paine/Torstar

Halton Women's Place past executive director Diane Beaulieu and police chief Stephen Tanner reflect on the victims, as a new Intimate Partner Violence Memorial is unveiled.

MEMORIAL UNVEILED TO VICTIMS **OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE**

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A memorial to remember those who have lost their lives to intimate partner violence has been unveiled at Halton Police headquarters.

Members of the Halton police, the Halton Police Board and Halton Women's Place participated in a moment of silence November 2 at the memorial, which recognizes all those who have suffered due to intimate partner violence, honours all victims who have been killed in acts of intimate partner violence, and aims to increase awareness of the impacts of such violence in this community.

"Intimate partner violence can take many forms. It can be physical violence, it can be sexual, it can be stalking, and it can be psychological harm," said staff Sgt. Anita Laframboise of Halton police.

"It can occur between same sex or opposite sex. What we know is this crime has impacted many people ... far too many. It has only been in recent decades that the collective social conscience has acknowledged intimate partner violence for what it is; a social concern, not a private problem.'

Halton police chief Stephen Tanner said his officers see the devastating impacts of intimate partner violence all too often.

He noted so far this year. Halton Police have responded to 3,003 intimate partner violence calls, resulting in 736 arrests and 1,623 charges.

Tanner pointed out that just last week a Burlington man was been sentenced to life in prison for the fatal shooting of his wife.

The police chief said Halton officers respond, on average, to more than nine intimate partner violence calls per day, but noted there are many more that are not reported to police.

"This past year has introduced new stresses and new hardships to all of our lives. Now more than ever. victims of intimate partner violence need the wraparound support of our community," said Tanner.

The Halton Police Board unanimously approved \$13,240 in funding for the memorial back in August.

The memorial includes a beautified northern area on the grounds of the Halton police headquarters at 2485 North Service Rd., W., along with a bench and a large landscaping stone to which a plaque commemorating the victims is affixed. Diane Beaulieu, former director of the Halton Women's Place, noted victims of intimate partner violence are harmed by those they should have been able to trust more than anyone else in the world.

"Together, we must ask how we can change that and together we must do all we can to end it," said Beaulieu.

Those experiencing intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence can contact:

 Halton Regional Police Service Victim Services Unit, 905-825-4777

• Halton Women's Place, 905-878-8555 (north) or 905-332-7892 (24-hour crisis line)

• Halton Children's Aid Society, 905-333-4441 or 1-866-607-5437

• Nina's Place Sexual Assault and Domestic Assault Care Centre, 905-336-4116 or 905-681-4880

· Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS), 905-875-1555 (24-hour crisis line)