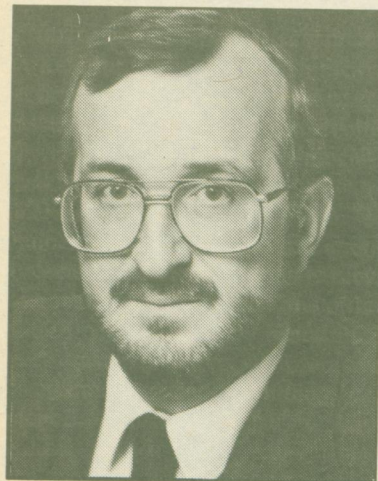


# Queen's Park Report



Noel Duignan MPP  
Halton North

The second annual Provincial Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was held on December 6th to pay tribute to the fourteen women massacred in Montreal and to all female victims of violence.

On that date, three years ago, a man shouting "You're all a bunch of feminists", shot and killed fourteen students at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. The act shocked and saddened Canadians across the country.

While some saw it as the act of a "madman", many women saw the deaths as an extreme manifestation of the violence that affects women in all aspects of their lives. Marc Lepine was a product of a society which directly and indirectly condones or supports attitudes which allow violence against women to continue.

How big a problem is violence against women? I've told you about some of these facts before, but I believe they're worth repeating.

Figures recently released by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics indicate that 121 women were killed by their current or estranged male partners in Canada since 1991.

This is a 33% increase over the previous year. Forty-nine of those women lived in Ontario.

- Conservative estimates indicate that one in four women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime.

- One in five men living with a woman admits to using violence against her.

- A survey done in 1991 by the Ontario Women's Directorate found that six out of ten Ontarians know either a man who assaults a woman or a woman who is assaulted.

What are we doing about it?

- Violence against women, chil-

dren and the vulnerable is a priority issue for our government. Since 1990, we've increased funding aimed at the prevention of wife assault and sexual assault by \$25 million to \$88 million.

- The first provincial Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was marked by the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Marion Boyd, leading an all-party statement on December 5th, 1991 in the Legislature. December 4th was the date for this year's statement.

We've also moved toward making health care safer for patients with the introduction of legislative amendments aimed at eliminating sexual abuse in health care.

Health Minister Frances Lankin announced the changes to the Regulated Health Professions Act by saying that people seeking health care have the right to expect that the treatment they receive from these providers is going to be caring and not damaging.

The amendments contain very tough penalties to deter health pro-

fessionals from abusing their power and breaking the relationship of trust. There will be one level of sexual offence, called sexual abuse, and it will cover sexual relations, touching of a sexual nature, and improper behavior or remarks. The penalty for sexual intercourse or other act of sexual violation is a minimum five-year revocation of the professional's license and a fine of up to \$35,000.

Please call my Milton office at 878-1729 for more information about the amendments.

## Family history research

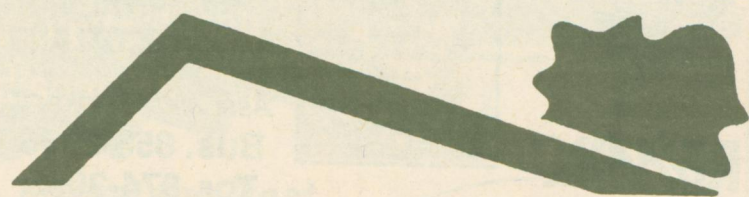
The Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society's regular meeting will be at Chinguacousy Branch Library, lower level, 150 Central Park Dr. Brampton on Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

Speaker is Alan Skeoch, author of Broken Wings, speaking on the Bernardo Children and the Home Children.

## CMHA needs Acton volunteers

Do you enjoy helping people? The Canadian Mental Health Association is looking for energetic and committed volunteers to assist with Acton's Oasis social recreation program for people who have experienced mental health problems.

Times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 8:30 p.m. and/or every other Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. For details call Kim Peters at 853-4477.



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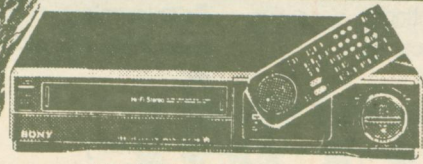
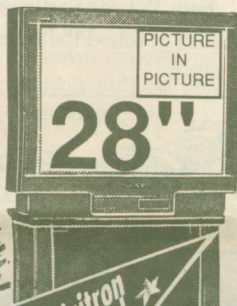
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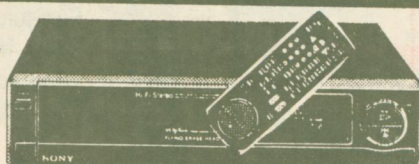
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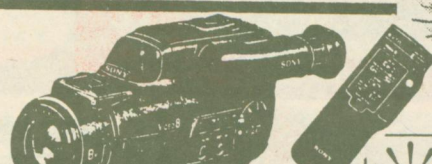
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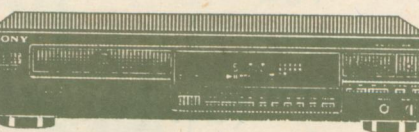
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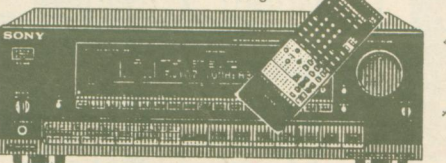
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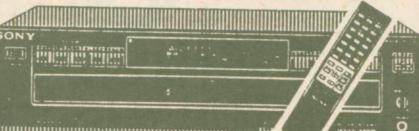
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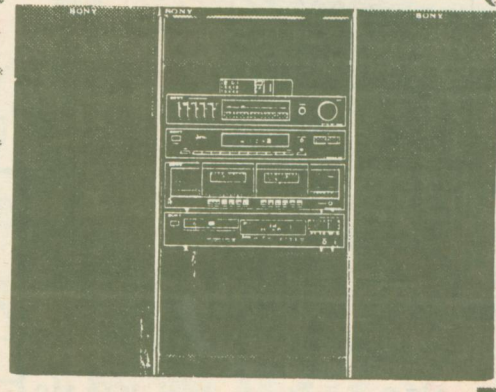
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