

Volunteer resources growing in North Halton

By Dianne Cornish

By early May, the number of North Halton volunteers donating their time to supportive programs offered by the Halton Rape Crisis Centre will nearly double. Seven Halton Hills area women are currently enrolled in the first training session ever held by the Centre in North Halton and will complete their training by May 6.

The three-hour weekly training sessions, covering a wide range of topics including acquaintance and date rape, began two weeks ago at the Limehouse area home of Centre volunteer Elizabeth Carmichael. They are conducted by Shirlea Potter, the Centre's new volunteer co-ordinator.

A former volunteer for the Halton Centre and the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre, Potter joined the staff of the Halton agency in mid-February. Just days before she became a staff member, the Centre moved from its old headquarters in Burlington to its new suite in Oakville's Hopedale Mall.

Potter heads a complement of 45 volunteers throughout Halton Region, eight of whom are residents of North Halton (Milton and Halton Hills). All assist the Centre in achieving its goals which include providing support and information to victims of sexual violence.

Potter explained that volunteers normally commit their help for a minimum of a year. They assist in several areas including outreach, education and social action.

Volunteers also man the Crisis Line (875-1555), a 24-hour help line

which provides support and information to victims of sexual abuse. The line has a Milton number, which means that it can be reached from any municipality in Halton Region without a long-distance charge.

Potter said one of her goals as



Shirlea Potter

volunteer co-ordinator is to extend the Centre's reach into North Halton. The training program in Limehouse is one step in that direction. If demand warrants, another training program for volunteers will be held in Acton in the fall, Potter said. In addition, she plans to keep communication lines open by meeting with volunteers in North Halton every two weeks.

Potter confirmed that the Centre is continuing to explore the idea of a satellite office in North Halton.

The training program in Limehouse is a pilot project. Normally, the programs are conducted during evening hours at the Centre's headquarters. The next volunteer training course will be held next month in Oakville.

Potter credited Carmichael and Margaret Perry, the Centre's former volunteer co-ordinator, for getting North Halton's first training program under way. Subjects discussed during training include the philosophy surrounding feminism, myths and realities on acquaintance and date rape, and resources available in Halton to assist victims of sexual abuse.

Crisis intervention and coun-

selling training is also provided for volunteers. In addition, several guest speakers will address the women. Among these will be a Halton Regional Police Service detective who will speak on Sexual Assault and Police Protocol.

While most of the training sessions will be held in Carmichael's home, two will take place at the Georgetown headquarters of Halton Police.

Anyone requiring more information about the Centre can contact the Oakville office at (416) 825-3622.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5:30 TV Story Time	5:30 Religion	5:30 TV Story Time	5:30 Religion	5:30 Community Calendar
6:00 Halton's Health	6:00 Optimists TV Bingo	6:00 Community Calendar	6:00 Community Calendar	6:00 Sportszone
6:30 Looking Back Through a Museum	7:00 Halton Hills Council (Mar. 8/93)	6:30 Ontario Agricultural Museum	6:30 Change on Life	6:30 Sportszone
7:30 Hockey Heritage 1993		7:00 Halton Seniors' TV	7:00 Sportszone	6:30 Region Council (Mar. 3/93)
		8:00 Business 231	7:00 Focus on Europe	
		8:30 Economics 101	8:00 German Diary	
		9:00 Sociology 323		

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