

A compassionate response

STORY BY DONNA DANIELLI

Official representatives from 24 community agencies were on hand at Halton Region on November 14 for the launch of a new CD-ROM targeted at ensuring a consistent knowledgeable and compassionate response from any agency in Halton that responds to sexual assault and domestic violence.

In 1999, the Halton Sexual and Domestic Violence Collaborative developed a comprehensive response protocol

for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. In the spring of 2002, the Halton Community Response Protocols for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence were launched and cross-sectorial training began for the front line service providers.

Over the course of 2004-2005, the protocols were modified to enhance their effectiveness for service providers. Gaps in the protocols were reduced as additional community agencies were included and

a training CD-ROM was developed for service agency staff to use as a training tool and resource.

"This serves to enhance communication, working relationships and alleviate historical barriers," Linda Graydon, Public Health Nurse said. "All stakeholders will, hopefully, have a clearer understanding of the beliefs and principles of the protocols as well as the options available to survivors. With the launch of the Updated Protocol and its accompanying tools, it is our hope that the work of the Halton Sexual & Domestic Violence Collaborative and the use of the Halton Community Protocols on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence will increase the safety and well being of all victims of sexual assault/domestic violence in Halton."

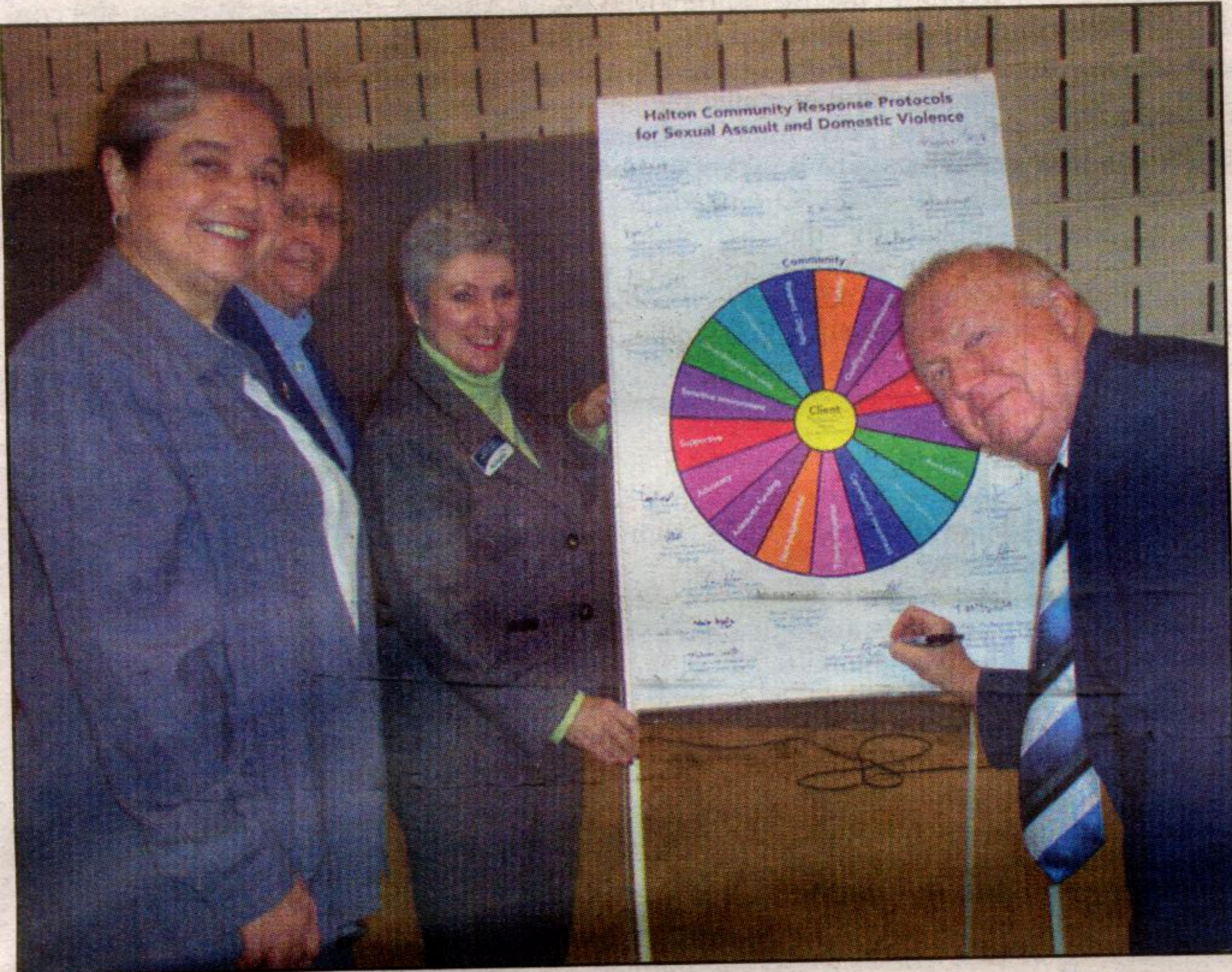


PHOTO BY BERNADETTE WARD

Pictured here are Milton Councillor Cindy Lunau, Ann Mulvale Mayor of Oakville, Burlington Councillor Carol D'Amelio and Regional Police Chief Algar

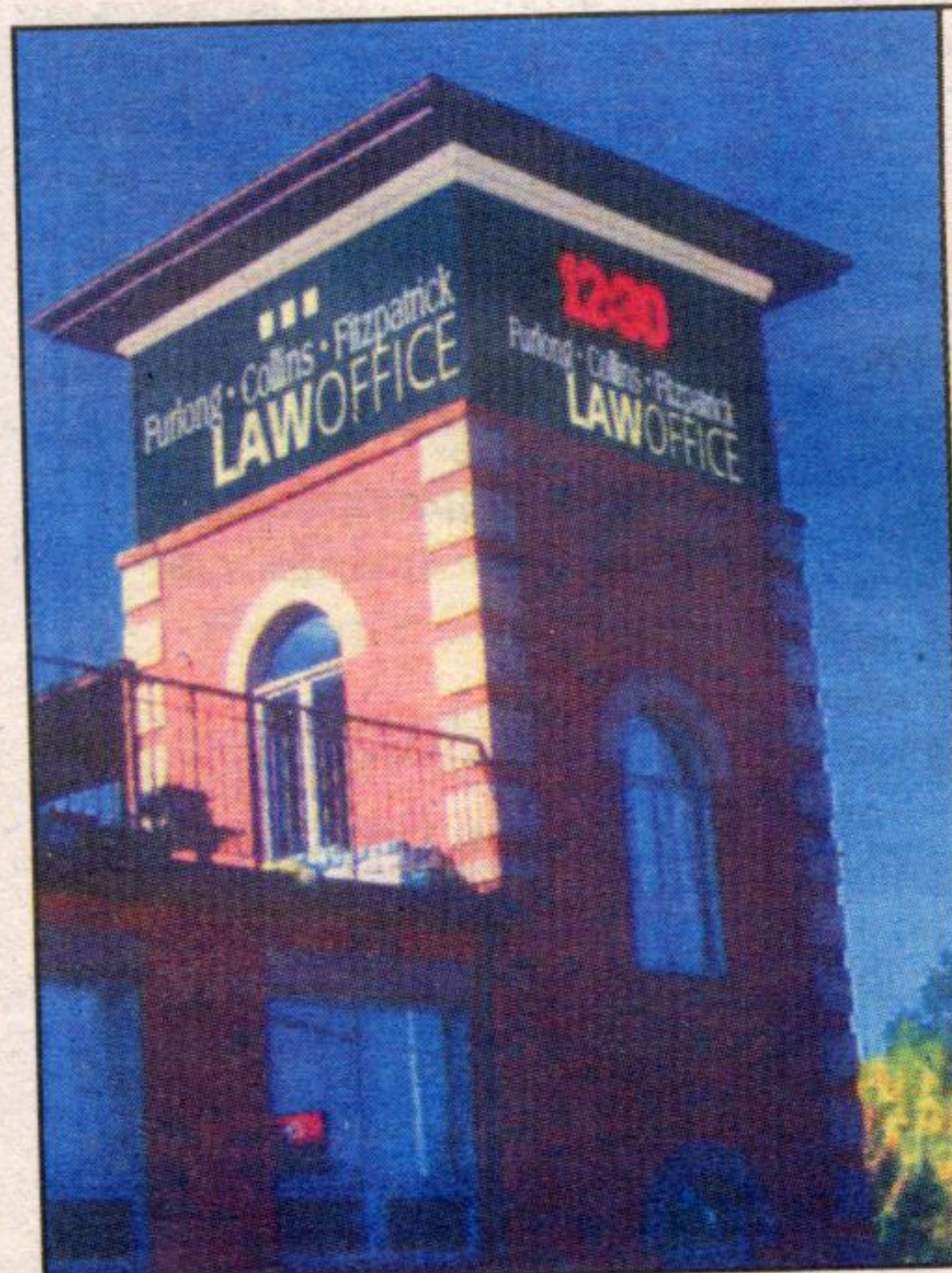
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The Ontario Waste Agricultural Pesticide Collection Program is funded by CropLife Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and Environment Canada. Funding for this project has also been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Adaptation Council's CanAdvance Program. The program is also supported by AGCare, the Ontario Agri Business Association and its network of participating agricultural dealers, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.



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