

Health Care

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ROBERT H. CRANFIELD D.C.

HEALTH DIGEST

Monday, Oct. 23

MADD info night: MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) holds a volunteer information night, 7:30 p.m. in the Oakville Municipal Building, 1225 Trafalgar Rd. Info: (905) 844-0096.

TOPS meeting: The Acton branch of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets Mondays in the basement of St. Joseph's Catholic Parish, 64 Church St. E. Weigh in 6-7 p.m.; meeting 7-8 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

Healthy eating: Choices 4 Health, Halton's Heart Health and Cancer Reduction Initiative will present a two-hour workshop on Quick Easy Ways to Healthy Eating, for women. The women will learn how to prepare four healthy meals, plan meals in advance and incorporate active living and stress management. For location information (in Halton Hills) and to reserve a seat call Halton Region Health Dept., 878-8113 or 853-0501, ext. 7489.

Foot care clinic: VON foot care clinic at St. John's United Church on Guelph St., 1-4 p.m. Cost, \$20. Space is limited—by appointment only. Held every Tuesday. Call 1-800-387-7127.

Friday, Oct. 27

Foot care clinic: VON foot care clinic at the Georgetown Seniors Centre, 9 a.m. to noon. Cost, \$20. By appointment only. Call 1-800-387-7127.

165 domestic assaults reported in Halton this year

Alarm company to provide security systems to women, 'at risk' of domestic violence

ADT Security Services Canada is taking on the fight against domestic violence by starting DVERS (Domestic Violence Emergency Response System) in Halton.

In partnership with Halton Regional Police Service and Halton Women's Place, the program makes state-of-the-art security systems available to individuals who are considered "at high risk" of domestic violence.

Launched earlier this month, Halton Region is the 35th Canadian community to adopt the program, which is also in place in more than 160 communities in the United States.

"ADT has taken a strong initiative in the fight against domestic violence by helping to focus widespread attention on the issue," said Roy Maguire, president, ADT Security Services Canada. "It is hoped that the DVERS program will act as a deterrent to would-be abusers. Our commitment to support the DVERS program is just one reflection of our aim to give something back to the communities we serve."

People chosen to receive the security system must:

- be a resident of Halton Region,
- have filed complaints of physical violence or threats of with Halton Police,
- have separated from the accused with reconciliation not an option
- be a high risk that the accused may carry out acts of violence towards the participant, reflected by prior history and or threats being made
- have a court order against the accused in effect
- be willing to work co-operatively with the criminal justice system (police, crown and courts) and follow other protection measures as suggested.

ADT then installs and monitors

'It is a wonderful program that will definitely add to our continued fight against domestic violence.'

—Halton Police Chief Ean Algar



portable alarm systems and provides 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week monitoring. ADT trains the participant and their children on how to properly operate the alarm and how to avoid unnecessary false alarms.

If a woman whose home is equipped with the system, finds herself in danger, she simply presses the silent alarm on the unit. The signal is received by ADT who immediately alert police to respond on a priority one basis. The average response time of police in other communities has been about four minutes.

ADT provides free of charge the equipment, training and monitoring.

DVERS is co-ordinated at the local level by social service agencies, local police forces and ADT representatives.

"We are extremely pleased that the ADT DVERS program will be available to those individuals that reside in the Halton

Between 1979-1998 a total of 526 women died as a result of domestic violence in Ontario. Conversely, 125 men were victims of spousal homicide.

—Statistics Canada, October 1999

Region and live in fear of continued domestic violence," said Halton Region Police Chief Ean Algar. "It is a wonderful

program that will definitely add to our continued fight against domestic violence."

Between July 1999 and July 2000, domestic assaults rose by 4.4 per cent in Halton Region. A total of 158 assaults took place in Halton in 1999 and already this year there has been 165 assaults reported.

Over the past year, sexual offences have climbed by 19.7 per cent. Last year, 71 offences were reported, while 85 incidents have been documented to date this year.

Ontario-wide, between 1979 and 1998, a total of 526 women died as a result of domestic violence — and 125 men were victims of spousal homicide. About 12 per cent of Ontario's total population have experienced domestic violence over the past five years.

"The ADT DVERS program is an example of what is required to combat violence in our society," said Theresa Greer, executive director of Halton Women's Place. "Ending violence against women, children and men is the responsibility of each and every one of us and can only be achieved by members of our community working together."

"The ADT DVERS program will assist to help victims feel some security while striving to go on with their lives."

DVERS was created by ADT Security Services Canada Inc., following a request for assistance in 1991 from the Winnipeg Police Force and a local social agency.

ADT Security Services Canada Inc. is part of Tyco Fire and Security Services, a unit of Tyco International Ltd. ADT is the largest single provider of electronic security services in North America and the United Kingdom, providing continuous monitoring of residential, commercial and government buildings to more than 2.5 million customers.



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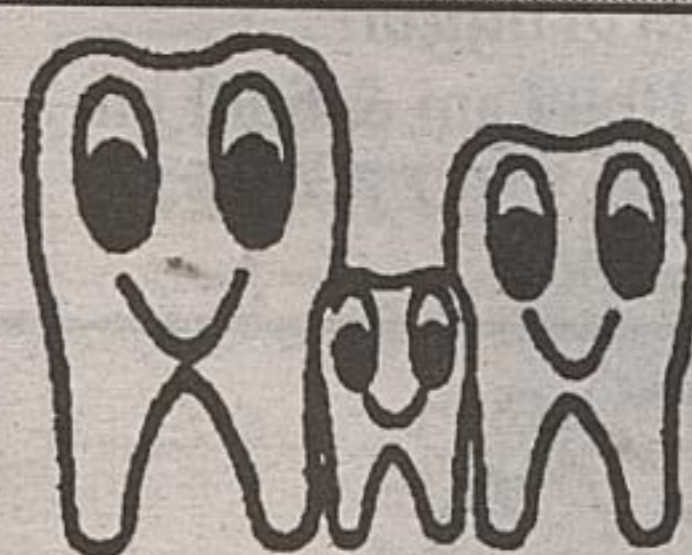


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