



# Champion COMMUNITY Page

## Local Amnesty group making a difference

*New local Amnesty International group petitions countries to strive for better social responsibility*

By **CARRIE BRUNET**  
*The Champion*

One letter at a time, Rebecca Walters is doing her part to end suffering in the world.

"Every letter I write is a victory," said Ms Walters, a member of the local Amnesty International group.

"Even if it doesn't change the situation for the person I'm writing for, I believe it does help discourage similar human rights violations in the future."

Amnesty International is a human rights organization that petitions countries to be more socially responsible.

Mostly, members work on letter-writing campaigns in protest of human rights violations.

But they also write letters to people who, they feel, have been unjustly incarcerated for speaking out against their government.

"The letter writing has proved to be quite effective," Ms Walters said.

Amnesty International releases a monthly newsletter chronicling the results of letter-writing campaigns.

"You see that people have been released from jail or have had their sentences changed from death to life imprisonment."

### Milton group is quite small

While the Milton group is in reality just a small branch of the Oakville chapter, many activities and fundraising happen right here at home.

For example, earlier this year the group held a yard sale to raise funds for postage, and set up booths at the Farmer's Market in October.

The Milton group began in June of this year and currently has eight members in official standing.

Other residents participate in fundraising and awareness events.

Ms Walters said she hopes to get more Miltonians interested in Amnesty work.

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**REBECCA WALTERS**

"Once people learn about Amnesty and start doing the work they find they really like it," she said.

"It would be nice to double our group."

By increasing the groups numbers, she said she hopes to get established as an independent amnesty group, recognized by the international organization.

"We'd like to have our own case files to work on," she said, explaining that each group is assigned certain countries to petition.

Ms Walters is confident that as Milton grows, so will her group.

Ms Walters is only one of a million members world wide, in 152 countries.

"I feel like I'm part of a great team," Ms Walters said, pointing out that Amnesty International won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997.

### Not all third-world countries

However, Ms Walters pointed out, targets of the campaigns aren't always third-world countries.

"We have groups who are writing Canada about their human rights issues," she said.

Each chapter is assigned cases outside their own country.

Ms Walters has written letters to Nigeria, Ireland, the Dominican Republic and many others.

Her current campaign has set a goal to convince all countries to adopt a United Nations document that prevents any form of human torture.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Amnesty International can log on to [www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca) or call Rebecca Walters to get involved locally at 876-4071.

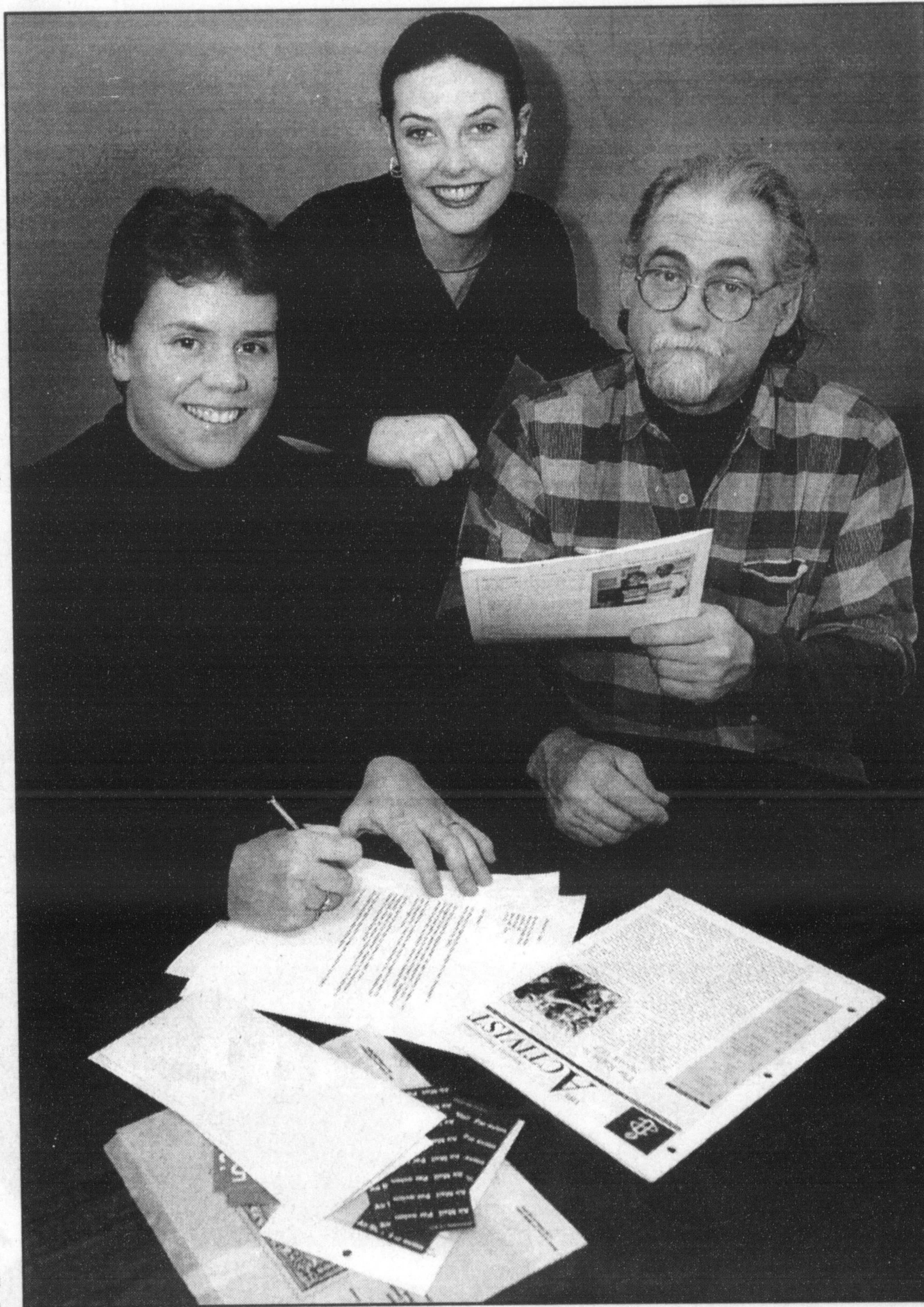


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Amnesty International worker Rebecca Walters (left) signs a letter petitioning a foreign country to adopt the United Nations convention against torture, while fellow Amnesty members Adriana Frazer and Ken Walsh look on. The Milton local of Amnesty International is seeking new members to join its fundraising and letter-writing efforts. Call Ms Walters at 876-4071 for details.

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NORTH HALTON STUDIO  
21 Main Street North,  
Acton, ON L7J 1V9  
(519) 853-4700

### COGECO 14 Programming Schedule – January 2nd, 2000 - January 8th, 2001

#### Tuesday, January 2nd

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In!  
Encore  
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In!  
Year In Review!  
Optimist TV  
Bingo  
6:30pm

#### Wednesday, January 3rd

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In!  
Encore  
5pm, 6pm, 7:30pm Plugged In!  
Year In Review!

#### Thursday, January 4th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! Encore  
5pm, 6pm, 7:30pm Plugged In!  
Year In Review!

#### Sunday, January 7th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! - Encore  
5pm, 6 pm & 7:30 pm Plugged In!  
Year In Review!

#### Monday, January 8th

9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! Encore  
5pm, 6pm, 7:30pm Plugged In!  
Living on the Edge  
Local Scene  
6:30pm  
7:00pm Money Week  
8:00pm SportsZONE Live

Feature this week: Watch our Year in Review episodes of "Plugged In!"