

Please call us at (905) 878-2341, ext. 234, if you have a good story idea.

Mother warns teens to watch for signs of abuse

By DONA FOUCAULT
Special to The Champion

Many of the attendees at Halton's annual 'Victim-less' community policing conference wept quietly as anti-violence crusader Dawna Speers spoke of her daughter Monica's tragic death at the hands of an abusive ex-boyfriend.

On October 7, 1991, Monica was brutally murdered by her ex-boyfriend Adam.

Shortly after her daughter's death, Ms Speers joined the now defunct CAVEAT (Canadians Against Violence) and developed Monica's story "so that others would not walk in her footsteps."

Ms Speers was at the Oakville confer-

ence, presenting her educational package 'Choices for Positive Youth Relationships', which included a presentation of her award-winning film 'A Love that Kills'.

Her six-step curriculum based instructional guide was adopted in 2001 as a pilot project in 14 high schools in four provinces and her film is used as an educational tool across Canada, the United States and most recently Europe.

The educational program focuses on recognizing the signs of abuse.

"As I was writing Monica's story, I realized that there were signs along the way that Monica was becoming a victim," Ms Speers said. "He was chipping away, little by little, at her self-esteem until she wasn't her own person anymore."

Ms Speers discussed other signs like putting people down, playing on a weakness (Monica had a learning disability that Adam used against her on a regular basis),

• see YOUTH on page 31

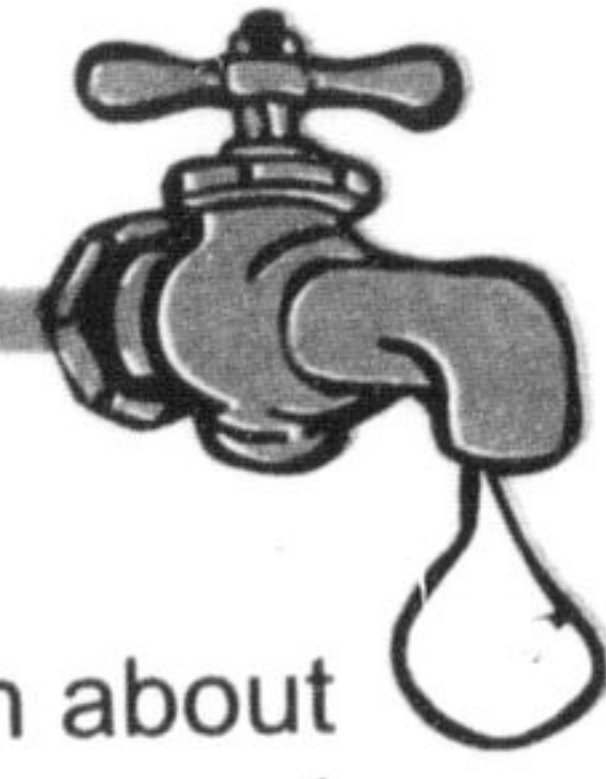


Dawna Speers speaks at the 'Victim-less' conference.

Halton Region

A Partnership That Works!

Halton's Water is Clearly Top Quality



Halton Region's Water Quality Quarterly Report (July-September 2002) is now available. The report provides information about where your drinking water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the Ontario Drinking Water Standards.

How does Halton measure up?

- Halton's water is purity tested more than 125,000 times each year;
- Halton's water has consistently tested SAFE;
- Halton Region meets the required Ontario Drinking Water Standards;
- Halton Region staff are highly qualified, licensed and dedicated to delivering safe drinking water.

Find out more about water quality in Halton.

- Visit <http://www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/water/waterquality/> to view results for all water supplies in Halton Region;
- Pick up a copy of the Water Quality Quarterly Report from Halton's Planning & Public Works Department at 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville;
- Order a copy of the report by phone at 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

Information About Yard Waste Collection

Effective September 2002, Halton Region phased out the collection of plastic yard waste bags as part of the yard waste collection program. Many communities in the GTA and across Canada have already implemented similar yard waste collection programs.

This change will help us improve the quality of the compost we are able to offer our residents, minimize plastic waste in the landfill and reduce costs. While plastic bags are relatively inexpensive and plentiful, they are costly to process and are not environmentally friendly.

We ask you to consider some alternatives to plastic yard waste bags:

Open reusable containers (such as an open garbage can or bushel basket) with a yard waste label

- Saves time because it is easier to fill
- Saves money by reducing the number of bags you use
- Saves the environment by reducing plastic waste

Biodegradable paper yard waste bags

- Sturdier than you might think, and will stand up through all kinds of weather
- Biodegradable and therefore will not contaminate the compost available to residents
- Easy to fill

Backyard Composting

- Leaves provide a rich component of carbon to the compost pile. A successful compost mix includes 75% carbon (brown material) and 25% nitrogen (green material)

Yard Waste

Leaves * Brush * Weeds * Trimmings

Pick up a complimentary yard waste bag (10 per household) and a label for your yard waste container at the following location:

- North District Operations Centre
1600 Steeles Ave, Milton
Saturday, November 9th from 10:00am - 3:00pm
and Wednesday, November 13th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866)
TTY 905-827-9833

or visit us at: www.region.halton.on.ca



Holiday Open House

Saturday & Sunday
November 16 & 17

During the months of November & December, make a donation of knitted goods, non perishable food & any other donations to our "Mitten Tree" for the Halton Women's Shelter and you will be entered in our store contest.

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With any three cards purchased.
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