

# Youth must be able to talk in safe environment

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not being allowed to talk to members of the opposite sex, increased isolation from family members and economic domination.

"If you have ever experienced even one of these, you could be in an abusive relationship," Ms Speers told high school students in the documentary.

Youth need to be able to talk about their experiences and their values to peers and adults in a safe and supportive environ-

ment, emphasized Ms Speers.

"The opportunity to share information and develop and practice healthy skills and strategies is imperative to positive youth relationship choices," she said.

Ms Speers also addressed the ripple effect that violence has on family members. She said that even though her husband and three sons have chosen to take the same approach she has — "the route of forgiveness and love" — it hasn't been easy

for any of them.

"My eldest son, who is now 32, still keeps a shrine in his bedroom for Monica," said Ms Speers as she choked back tears.

"We have an opportunity here today to

stop it now. But it takes a team, all of us — I hope and pray that others will be able to learn from her experience."

Adam is currently serving a 14-year sentence for second-degree murder.

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Halton Regional Centre, Auditorium  
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

**No appointments necessary**

For more information call:

Halton Region Health Department's Flu Info Line 905-825-6158

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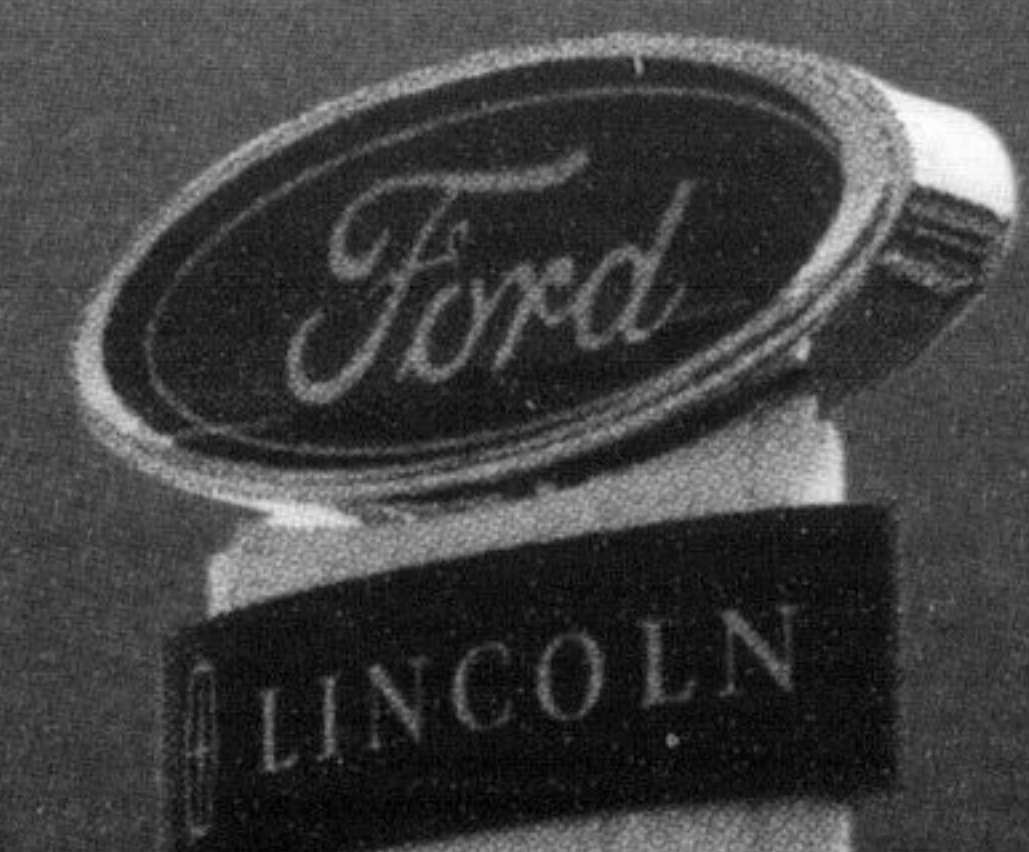
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