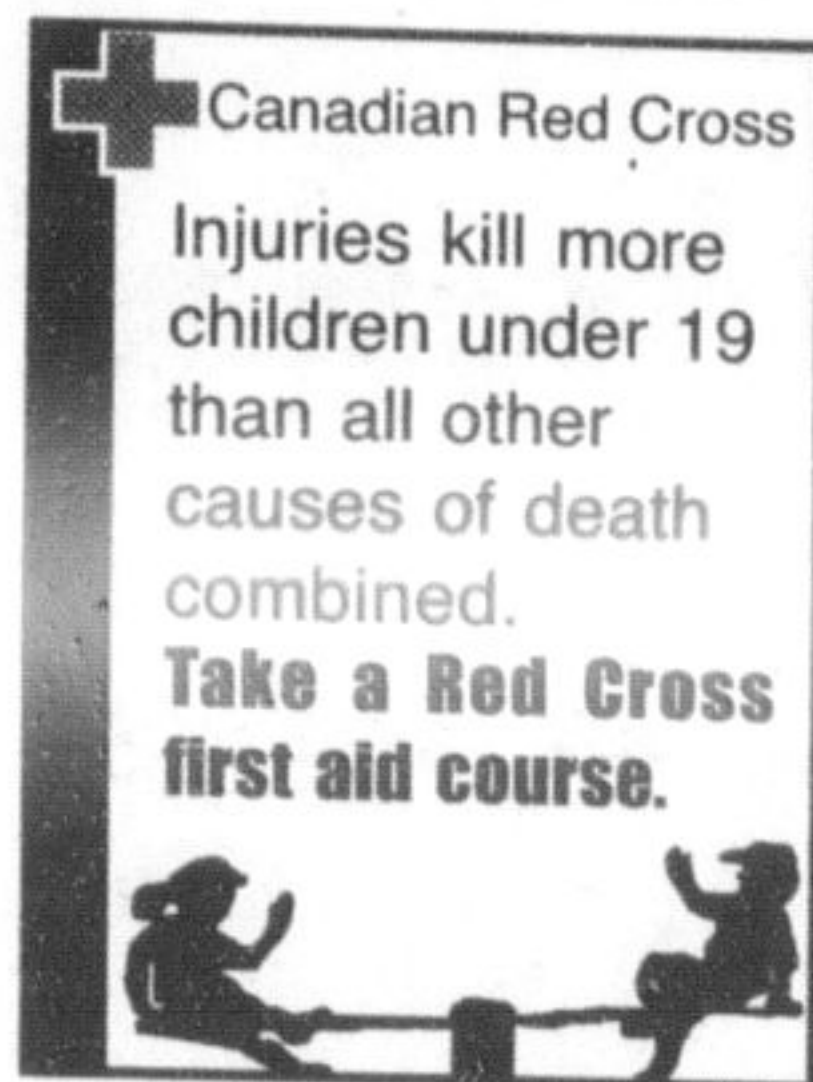


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# Region's fight against West Nile has begun

The Region has launched its 2006 West Nile virus control program. As of yesterday, the health department commenced its dead bird surveillance for the season and is now asking

residents to help track the presence of West Nile in Halton by reporting dead bird sightings to its staff. Dead crows and blue jays may be collected by staff and submitted for

viral testing if suitable. The health department is interested in sightings of all dead birds, but will not be collecting all of them. In cases where the bird won't be picked up, staff will explain

how to dispose of it safely. "Staff are again planning very comprehensive surveillance and control strategies to safeguard the health of our community," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline. "However, residents are also encouraged to do their part by reporting dead bird sightings and removing standing water from their property."

The Region will begin its mosquito larviciding program when staff has identified mosquito larvae in catch basins or areas of standing water. Notices regarding the start of surface water larviciding will be placed in local newspapers before it begins. In addition, signs will be posted at the sites where larvicide is applied. The locations will also be listed at [www.halton.ca/wnv](http://www.halton.ca/wnv).

"We have consistently found West Nile virus activity in Halton's bird populations since 2001 and in the mosquito populations since 2002, said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal. "We expect this year to be no different."

In 2005, Halton had five human cases of West Nile.

"With the combination of Halton's comprehensive West Nile control strategy and individuals taking steps to reduce their exposure to West Nile virus by protecting themselves from mosquito bites, we believe that the risk for human cases in Halton is reduced considerably," Dr. Nosal said.

To report a dead bird sighting call (905) 825-6000 and provide as much of the following information as possible:

- The type or description of the bird.
- Address or closest intersection to where the bird is located.
- The length of time the dead bird has been there.

## Intruder attacks woman

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a man who broke into a Milton woman's house in the middle of the night and sent her to hospital.

Police said the 57-year-old woman was asleep in her upstairs bedroom when she was awakened by a loud crash on the main floor. She went down to investigate and noticed a male intruder running from the side door of the home toward where she was standing, police said.

The intruder ordered the woman upstairs, but she refused. Instead, she tried to push the man aside to flee out the front door. The suspect struck her with a blunt object and fled the home.

The victim was treated for head wounds at Milton District Hospital and released.

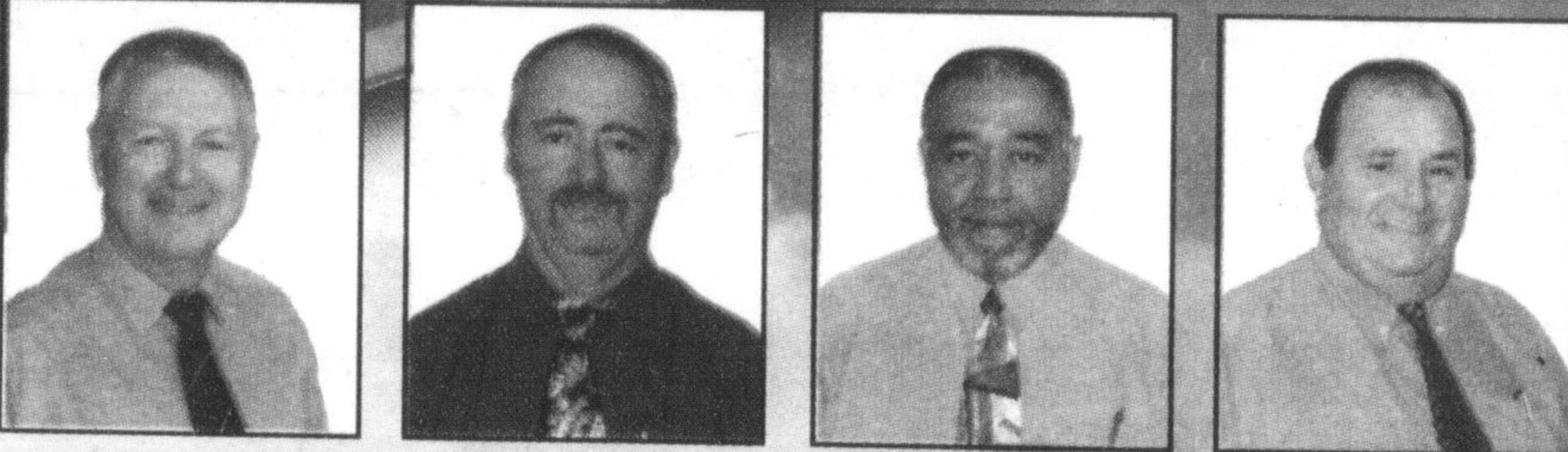
Police conducted a canine search, but the suspect wasn't found. An investigation revealed he had forced his way into the home through the side door.

He's described as white, in his late teens, about five-foot-nine, thin, wearing a black jacket with a hood.

Anyone with information is asked to call Halton Regional Police at (905) 825-4777 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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