

Push on for new women's shelter

By KAREN SMITH

Two Halton organizations are hoping the new provincial government will respond to their requests for funding to open a second shelter for abused women in the region.

The region is in desperate need of a second shelter, according to two recent studies released by the Halton Social Planning Council and Halton Women's Place.

One study calls Halton Women's Place in Milton — the only shelter of its kind in the region — inaccessible for women in south Halton due to the lack of public transportation.

"Burlington and Oakville women and their children seeking shelter from violence must either turn to shelters in neighbouring regions or relocate to Milton," said members of the organizations in a press release.

Relocating isolates women and their children from friends and family, as well as their place of employment and schools, they said.

"Having to leave the community as well as the home compounds the crisis. For many, it makes what is already a difficult situation an impossible task."

The study by the Halton Social Planning Council (HSPC) collected data regarding abused women in Halton. Information was obtained from women in shelters, women who receive social assistance, and members of a Halton women's group.

The findings of the study are as-

foundings," said the study. "Amongst these three groups, there was overwhelming support (85 to 95 per cent) for a shelter in the south of Halton."

Data from the HSPC study shows that between three and five women out of 10 are abused in their homes.

"Regardless of whether it's one in 10, one in eight, or five in 10, the fact is that abuse is a very real experience for women across the country. Halton is no exception."

The study criticizes regional government for not recognizing the extent of the problem and not responding to it effectively.

"It is important to note that while

Halton has one shelter for abused women to service the entire region, Hamilton has five such shelters."

Vowing to open a second shelter in either Burlington or Oakville, Halton Women's Place has begun a fundraising campaign.

The shelter hopes to gain the support of the community and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which previously turned down requests for funding.

"Hopefully, with the results of the Halton Social Planning Council's study, the new government will be convinced that there is a need for two facilities."

Crime Stoppers credited

Cops grab bogus bills

Halton Regional Police are crediting Halton Crime Stoppers for a tip that led to a stash of counterfeit \$50 bills in Carlisle.

A search of a house trailer in Courtliffe Park on Monday turned up \$15,000 worth of the bills in 100 uncut sheets, said police.

Police had earlier issued a warning for the public to be on the lookout after a couple of Milton businesses reported customers trying to use them. Police charged two Carlisle residents with possession of counterfeit money.

Also found on one of the suspects, said police, were counterfeit \$100 bills amounting to \$5,000 in face value.

Crime Stoppers, which began two years ago in Halton, is credited with solving 125 cases and recovering more than \$300,000 in stolen property and illegal drugs. To date, about \$4,300 in reward money has been approved for tipsters.

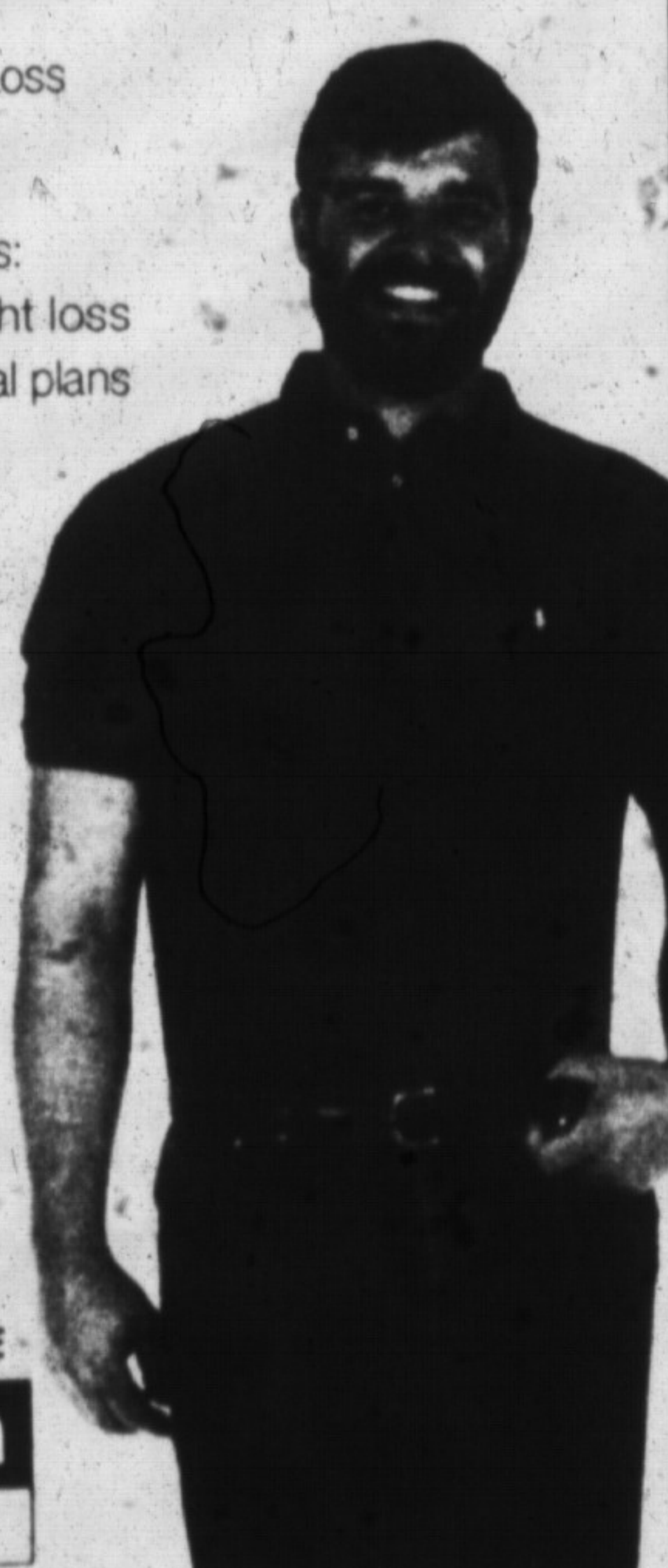
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