

Awareness helps reduce violence

Forum told attitudes are changing for the better

By KAREN SMITH

While violence both in and outside of the home is an increasing problem, there is some good news.

Social attitudes toward sexual assault are changing for the better, said Constable Janice LaRose during a public forum at E.C. Drury High School Tuesday night.

"People are more aware of what is acceptable and not acceptable behaviour," she said. "There is also more focus on the treatment of offenders."

Halton Regional Police were invited by the E.C. Drury Athletic Association to give a presentation on violent crime. About 70 adults and students attended to learn what they can do to protect themselves.

Addressing the concern of physical abuse, including sexual assault, Ms LaRose said an assault is any form of violent behaviour inflicted by one person on another, man or woman.

One in 10 women, though, are being abused by their partners on a continuous basis, she said. "Physical abuse can result in death."

Ms LaRose explained the difference between rape and sexual assault. "It (sexual assault) is not necessarily the same as rape," she said.

"Rape specifically refers to unwanted sexual intercourse. Sexual assault is any unwanted act of a sexual nature. In other words, it is any assault with sexual undertones."

Date rape, the common term for a sexual assault which occurs during a dating or social situation, was a topic particularly of interest to the teenage audience, although women of all ages can be victims.

Mr. LaRose told men not to put pressure on a woman to have sex. "You can have a successful social encounter without searing," she said.

She also told the male members of the audience not to assume what a woman wants, and speak up "if you are getting a double message. If you are still confused don't have sex with her."

A woman in the crowd questioned the recently removed rape shield law which means a sexual assault victim's sexual history can now be revealed in court.

She said many rape victims won't come forward for fear their sexual history will become public knowledge.

But Ms LaRose said special circumstances must be in place before defence attorneys can use such information

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Drury students ready

from STUDENTS on page 1

Past performances have proven successful, said Mr. Hicks. Last time around, the school won awards for best actress, script, set design and sound categories.

Meanwhile, E.C. Drury High School will present *The Dance Goes On* which includes a student-written song (by Nick Petroff) as its theme. The play focuses on the idea that everyone takes different steps in life, in their own way. It looks at the problems of life including such tragedies as suicide, and stresses the point that people can help each other through tough times with a support system.

The cast includes Erin Wiggins, Brenda Dunn, Alex Petroff, Allison Oleszkowicz, Joanne Stanley, Bryce Collins, Keith Adamson, Reena Massey, Sharron Hughes, Stephen Murray, Craig Salla, and Lindsay Key. *The Dance Goes On* will open the festival at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Ernest C. Drury's entry will take the stage third that night.

Although it's not part of the criteria for students to perform their own productions, both schools have opted to take that route. Maggie Vaivods, a Drury drama teacher, said unlike the past, student-written plays are becoming the trend. She said it's hard to tell how well her students' play will fare. "It depends on the likes" of the judges.

Two overall winners in Halton will move on to compete against other schools in southern Ontario. From there, the successful schools will vie to be the best in the province.



PIZZA HUT CELEBRATES...

... its first year in Milton. Here with PIZZA HUT staff & some patrons are left - Derek Elliott (president PIZZA HUT), centre, Mayor Krantz and right, Sarah Kobsa 7 years (celebrating her 7th birthday February 11th - the same day as the Pizza Hut Anniversary).

SAY NO TO WASTE . . . IT'S YOUR CALL!

On Thursday, February 18 between 8 and 9 p.m., we're calling on you to call us. The Joint Municipal-Regional Waste Management Committee is hosting a phone-in program - "Beyond the Blue Box". Live on local cable, Channel 4.

Tune in and give us your ideas on future reduction, re-use and recycling plans for Halton Region. The Committee's panel will present critical issues from the recently-released report, "Beyond the Blue Box - Halton As A Conserver Society". Then we'll invite you to join in by dialing (519) 853-1273 or (519) 853-1283.

If you need more information on this program, want a copy of the Committee's report, or wish to request a speaker for your group, call the Region of Halton. To avoid long-distance charges:

From Acton, call 853-0501
From Georgetown, call 878-8113
From Milton, call 825-6000

Ask

for

ext. 7692

There's no time to waste. So please call us on February 20, and be part of the solution.

Joan Eaglesham,
Regional Clerk

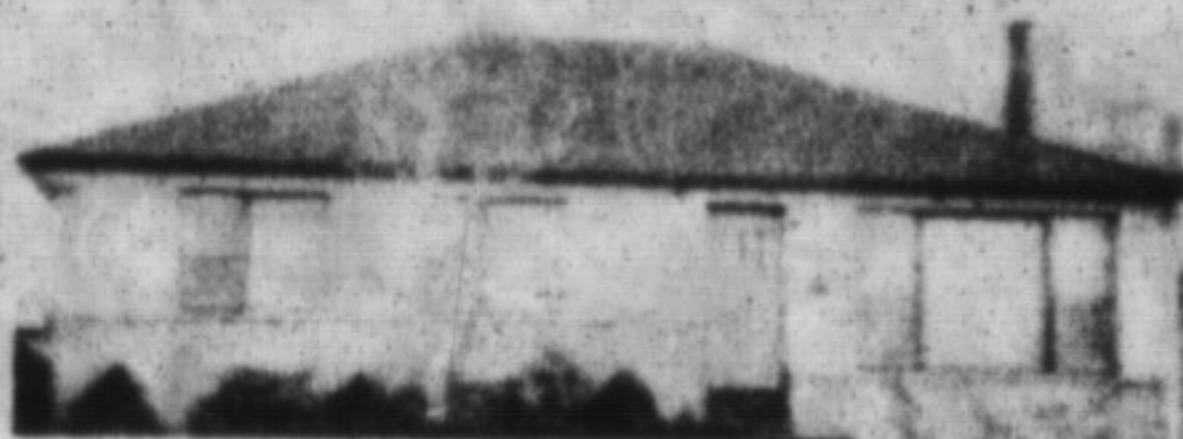


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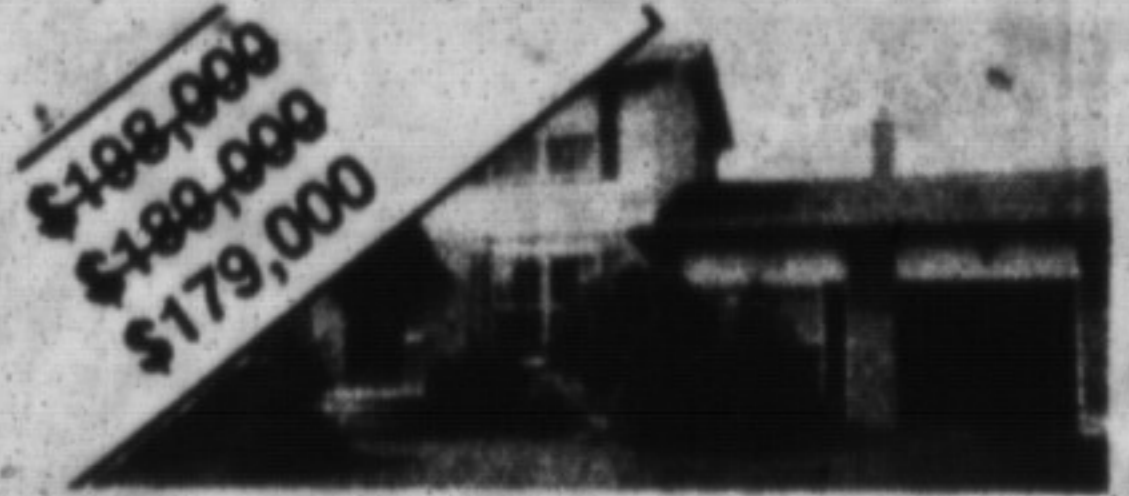
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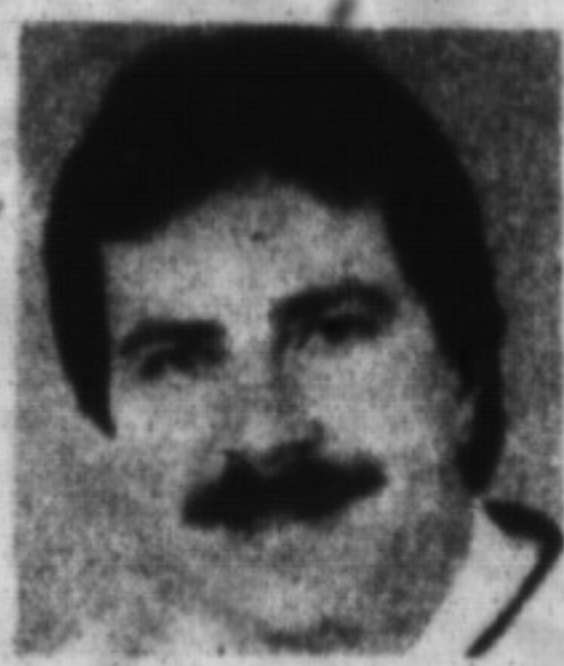


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This superb home has 4-BRS., family rm with FP & walkout, fin. Bsm't, main flr laundry and over 2,000 sq ft. Other features include upgraded broadloom, central air, inground pool & double garage. Located on a large lot close to school, and with a flexible closing. Call Clayton to view.

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