

It's no time to walk alone

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER I would often go for walks on the roads or in the woods surrounding my rural home. Sometimes my brother or a friend would come with me and sometimes I'd go alone. I never worried about it then, I didn't even think about it that much. I felt happy and safe on my journeys.

It's strange now that I'm older, I no longer go for walks like that. Often I'm not allowed to, or I'm scared to. Perhaps it's just I was more naive when I was young or maybe I've become paranoid now.

There was a time when I would walk down a road alone, just enjoying the silence and thinking. Now if I happen to find myself alone on a road, I become tense and scared, I clutch my keys between my knuckles

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

with HEATHER WOODS

like I've been told for self-defence and jump at any slight sound. I no longer listen to the birds singing in the trees or enjoy the scenery. I listen for the sound of cars approaching slowly behind me. I look over my shoulder to make sure no one is following me.

Just a little while ago, I made the mistake of staying half an hour later at a soccer practice than I had originally said before walking to a friend's house. I didn't think it was such a big deal, but when I was late arriving my friend called my mother to ask where I was. Everyone panicked and went out to look for me. Next time, no matter how inconvenient or impractical it is, I know I won't be allowed to walk, someone will come in a car for me.

It makes me angry I can't walk through parks or take the bus alone without that voice nagging in my head. "You shouldn't be here alone. You should have gotten someone to come with you." It makes me angry that everyone who cares about me or anyone else had to go through the worry that something happened to me when I was late instead of thinking "Oh, I guess the soccer practice went a little late." It infuriates me that I cannot be independent, that I must always rely on others to accompany me wherever I go because it's not safe for me to go alone.

I argue with my parents that my brother is allowed to do things I would never be permitted to do. I ask them if they don't trust me and their answer is always the same. They trust me but they don't trust the rest of the world. I tell them it's not fair. They tell me I'm right but that's the way it is. Girls have to be careful.

You hear a new story every day. A woman was attacked or raped while walking alone at night or even in the middle of the day. The response from many — "She shouldn't have been out alone." People go on and on about what she shouldn't have been doing. They make it seem like, somehow, it was her fault for not having seven huge bodyguards accompanying her. They try to convince themselves this would never happen to them because they would never go out alone like that. The truth is that even the most careful people have to go out alone sometimes. There is no way to completely avoid potentially dangerous situations.

The fact that someone was alone or out after dark should not be used to make excuses for her attacker. He is the one who shouldn't have been there. He is the one who shouldn't have committed a crime. She should not be treated as the guilty person for doing something normal human beings must do to be independent people.

I know now what I was unaware of as a child. I avoid walking alone. I never go down alleys or dark streets. I don't smile at strangers or say hello.

I wish I could walk alone but I guess I just have to accept the way things are and be careful not to put myself in dangerous situations. I can't change the things that happen every day in this world so instead I long for the days when I wasn't scared to walk down the street.

LOW COST RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS FOR DOGS AND CATS



Saturday, October 17, 1992

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Two Locations

The Boathouse, Acton
Cedarvale Park, Georgetown

\$8.00 per animal (including GST)

Proper restraint of animals is required!

Clinic sponsored jointly by the North Halton Veterinary Association and the Halton Regional Health Department



Bergsma's Paint & Wallpaper

Elegant Interiors SALE!

**HURRY IN!
SALE ENDS
OCTOBER 10,
1992**

Never been offered on SALE before!

Limited Time Only

Create a truly elegant look that you will love to call your own! Regal Interior Latex Paint Finishes ... beautiful and long lasting.

Aqua Velvet Latex Eggshell Flat Enamel



SALE PRICE \$27.95

Reg. Price \$37.85 / \$3.79L

Satin Impervo Alkyd Low Lustre Enamel



SALE PRICE \$29.95

Reg. Price \$41.10 / \$3.79L

*Some custom colors may be higher in price.

*Some custom colors may be higher in price.

End of Summer Wallpaper Blowout

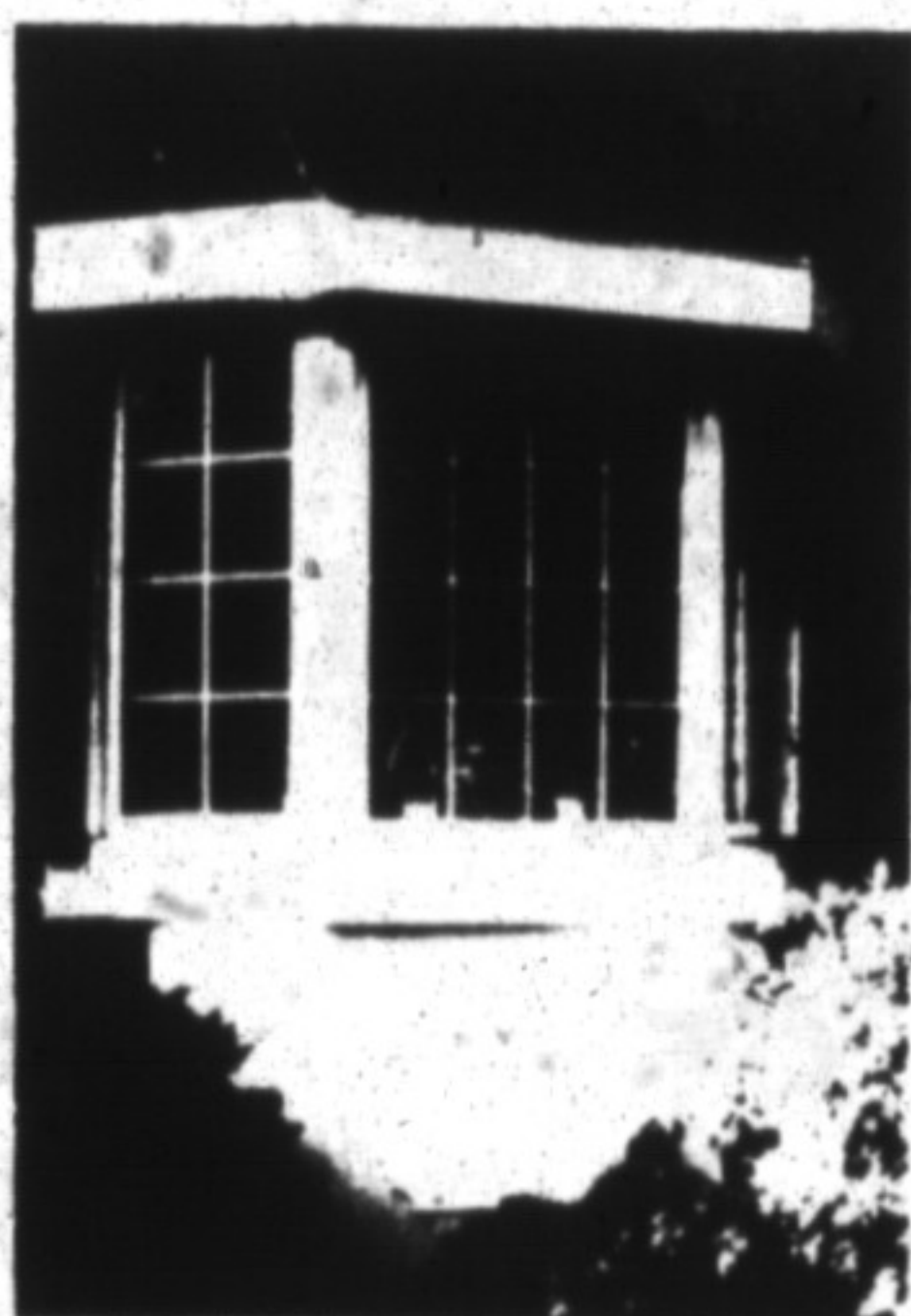
ALL IN-STOCK WALLPAPER 1/2 PRICE

HURRY! THE BEST DEALS WILL GO FIRST! SALE ENDS OCT 10

217 MAIN ST. E., 876-4922

Downtown Milton

Windows & Doors by Ridley



8th Annual Fall Sale

RIDLEY'S ANNUAL FALL SALE is here again for the 8th consecutive year. Ridley is passing the savings on to you. ALL products, INSTALLATION INCLUDED, are on sale.

ALL wood, aluminum & vinyl windows; elegant entrances & surrounds; steel, wood, fiberglass & aluminum doors; interior French Doors; interior & exterior decorative mouldings & more are ALL on sale.

From simple replacements to elegant Bays Ridley has something for everyone. OUR AIM IS CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!!

• QUALITY • INSTALLATION • SERVICE



For a FREE In-Home estimate call:

Milton/Campbellville
854-2228



Affordable Elegance®
Windows & Doors

Visit our showroom at 35 Crawford Cr., Campbellville
Mon - Thurs. 8-6, Fri. 8-8, Sat. 9-5

Evenings by appointment.

SERVING SOUTHERN ONTARIO