

# Turn off violence tomorrow, campaign urges residents

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
Special to The Champion

Residents are being urged to turn off violent television shows, music, videos, and movies tomorrow (Thursday) as part of the first Turn Off the Violence Day in Halton.

Turn Off the Violence Day is a Halton Board of Education initiative supported by the Halton Regional Police, Halton Region, all four regional municipalities, and a growing list of more than 30 community organizations.

"We're not providing community

standards. We're not a censorship program. We're asking people to make a conscious decision about what violence is to you," said Halton Board of Education race and ethnocultural equity consultant Bryce Leggatt at a Monday press conference.

Turn Off the Violence Day, a Crime Prevention Week program, is being touted as a chance for people to look at the violent messages they're receiving and make alternate choices.

"Turn Off the Violence is a coalition of individuals, organizations,

and agencies working together to prevent violence by convincing people to turn off violent media entertainment and choose non-violent ways to resolve conflict," explained Mr. Leggatt.

"We believe exposure to films, television programs, and music that glorifies violence desensitizes people to escalating violence in our society, and in some cases, promotes violent behaviour."

Mr. Leggatt is chairman of the public school board's Personal Protection Task Force, started by education director Bob Williams in August 1991 after the murders of Burlington teens Nina de Villiers

and Leslie Mahaffy. Turn Off the Violence Day is the task force's latest project.

"The campaign is designed to raise awareness in schools and the community about the influence of violence in the media to violence in the community at large," said Mr. Leggatt.

Turn Off the Violence Day was formally introduced at Halton Region's administrative centre Monday, with speeches from the four Halton mayors, regional chairman Peter Pomeroy, Halton Regional Police Chief James Harding and CAVEAT (Canadians Against Violence Everywhere Advocating its

Termination) spokesmen Glenn Roche.

Billed as the first of its kind in Canada — a similar program was launched two years ago by a community group in Minnesota — the project has been in the works for seven months.

Organizers hope the community sponsors will double next year and Turn Off the Violence Day will become an annual Crime Prevention Week event.

This week, Halton students are hearing public address messages at school urging them to Turn Off the Violence. Teachers have received kits suggesting related activities.

"There is violence in our respective communities regardless of whether we want to recognize it or not," said Milton Mayor Gord Krantz.

CAVEAT, which attempts to end violence through education and legislation, sees Turn Off the Violence as a start on the educational front, said Mr. Roche.

"Violence is not just a women's issue, violence is everyone's concern," he said.

"We made a difference with drinking and driving. We can make a difference on violence. Don't watch violent videos. Don't listen to violent music. Don't attend violent movies. Make an effort in your community to turn off the violence."

Chief Harding recently sent a letter to local video retailers outlining the Turn Off the Violence Day.

"I am not suggesting that you do not do business on that day, but encourage you to take the time suggesting to your customers the titles of movies and videos which you feel are non-violent," reads the Chief's letter.

## Anti-violence meeting tonight

As part of its continuing campaign "Say No to Violence Against Women", the Halton Women's Teachers' Association is sponsoring an event with violence and sexism in the media as its topic.

The community is invited to join the teachers this evening (Wednesday) at Tyandaga Municipal Golf Course, 1265 Tyandaga Park Drive, Burlington to address this issue.

The keynote speaker will be Linda Hawkes of Media Watch — the association that works to change the negative portrayal of women in the media.

Paul Bennett of Halton Sexual Abuse Program will also speak. Dave Toderick will say no to violence through music. The event starts at 7 p.m.

The **PREMIER MILTON** cinemas  
121 CHISHOLD RD. MILTON  
W. OF HWY 7, S. OF Q. 11 876-3333

**NEW LOW PRICES!**  
all seats \$4.25 MON. TO THURS.

**1 STARTS FRIDAY CONSULTING ADULTS**  
Fri. & Sat. 7 & 9 p.m.  
Sun. to Thurs. 7:30 p.m.  
LAST 2 DAYS - Wed. & Thurs.  
DOCTOR GIGGLES 7:30 P.M.

**2 HELD OVER 3rd WEEK LAST OF THE MOHICANS**  
Tonight, Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 7 & 9 p.m.  
Sun. to Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

**3 HELD OVER 2nd WEEK HELLRAISER III HELL ON EARTH**  
Fri. & Sat. 7 & 9 p.m.  
Sun. to Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

**SUNOCO**

ONLY 4 WEEKS LEFT!  
ATLAS TIRES  
STILL 4  
FOR THE PRICE  
OF 3

ATLAS MARK V  
ALL SEASON RADIALS

PRICES ON  
ATLAS TIRES  
INCLUDE:  
BALANCING,  
INSTALLATION  
& ROAD HAZARD  
WARRANTY

TO HELP  
INCREASE YOUR  
TIRE LIFE, HAVE  
THEM ROTATED  
AND BALANCED  
ONLY **\$24.95**

"for all your auto needs"

**BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIRS**

432 Steeles Ave.  
Milton, Ontario

HOURS:  
Monday - Friday 7 - 6  
Saturday 9 - 1 except long weekends

**875-1522**

**NOW OPEN  
PRECISION SKI-N-SPORT**

**PRE-WINTER PACKAGE SALE**

- KASTLE AIR LITE SKIS
- NORDICA 358 BOOTS
- TYROLIA 540 BINDINGS

ENTIRE PACKAGE  
**\$299<sup>00</sup>**

• Shop early, the Ski Season's coming soon •

6 MARTIN STREET  
(TOWN SQUARE)

Hours  
Mon. - Fri. 9:30 - 6:00  
Sat. 9:30 - 6:00  
Sun. Noon - 5:00

**875-3625**

*Be Energy Smart*

ENJOY NATURAL GAS SAVINGS

**SAVE \$350.00\***

SWITCH TO NATURAL GAS AND MAKE NO EQUIPMENT PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS - IF YOU ACT BEFORE NOV. 28 TH!

If you're heating your home with oil or electricity you're paying too much for home comfort. It's time you switched to money-saving, *EnergySmart* natural gas. Natural gas is your most economical fuel choice - by far! A high-efficiency natural gas furnace is up to 94% fuel efficient, so you'll conserve energy - and save money at the same time. And, because natural gas is cleaner burning, you'll also help preserve our environment. Adding a natural gas rental water heater is another *EnergySmart* move. They heat up to three times faster than electricity and cost up to 54% less to operate than an electric water heater. Move up to a complete home comfort system *right now*, and take advantage of our limited-time offer. Being *EnergySmart* begins with natural gas. If *EnergySmart* savings and worry-free home comfort sound good to you - don't wait another minute to switch to natural gas. Call Union Gas today for this offer, or see a Member Dealer for other purchase incentives.

**1-800-263-9970**

**Union Gas**  
We bring the energy

\*Residential customers with approved credit. Offer valid between September 8 and November 28, 1992. \$350.00 off the purchase and installation of a high-efficiency furnace, central air-conditioning, and an electronic air cleaner package. Must be installed by February 28, 1993. Union Gas deferred payment is also available from Members of the Union Gas Heating Dealer Organization. All other offers not applicable.