

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: New Ontario guide assists victims of domestic violence

Abused women find guidance at a glance

BY DAWN LIERSCH
STAFF WRITER

A new guide lists Ontario services that can help women wanting to leave an abusive relationship.

The Guide to Services for Assaulted Women in Ontario, published by Community Information Toronto, gives practical suggestions abused women can take to change their lives and descriptions of the different services available, including basic legal information.

It also contains province-wide listings of shelters and crisis lines for abused women and their children, sexual assault crisis lines, hospital-based emergency services for victims of physical and sexual assault, victim services and court support programs, domestic violence courts, cultural interpreter services, women's centres, community information centres and distress centres.

Clive Jones, director of operations for Community Information Toronto, said a guide was originally published only for Toronto, but the centre was getting so many calls from outside Toronto that it was felt a province-wide guide was needed.

"This is not a solution, but it certainly is a help," Jones said.

The guide has just been distributed to approximately 600 locations, including women's centres, community information centres, victims' services and police.

The more information there is on the market, the easier it is for women to seek help, she added.

Gayle Elliott, residential manager of Yellow Brick House women's shelter in Aurora, said more and more people are using the shelter, perhaps because there's more information available. "People are becoming more aware of the options," Elliott said.

"It's a tough move to make, so it's important to let people know services are available." To receive a free copy of the guide call (416) 392-4575 or 1-800-836-3238.

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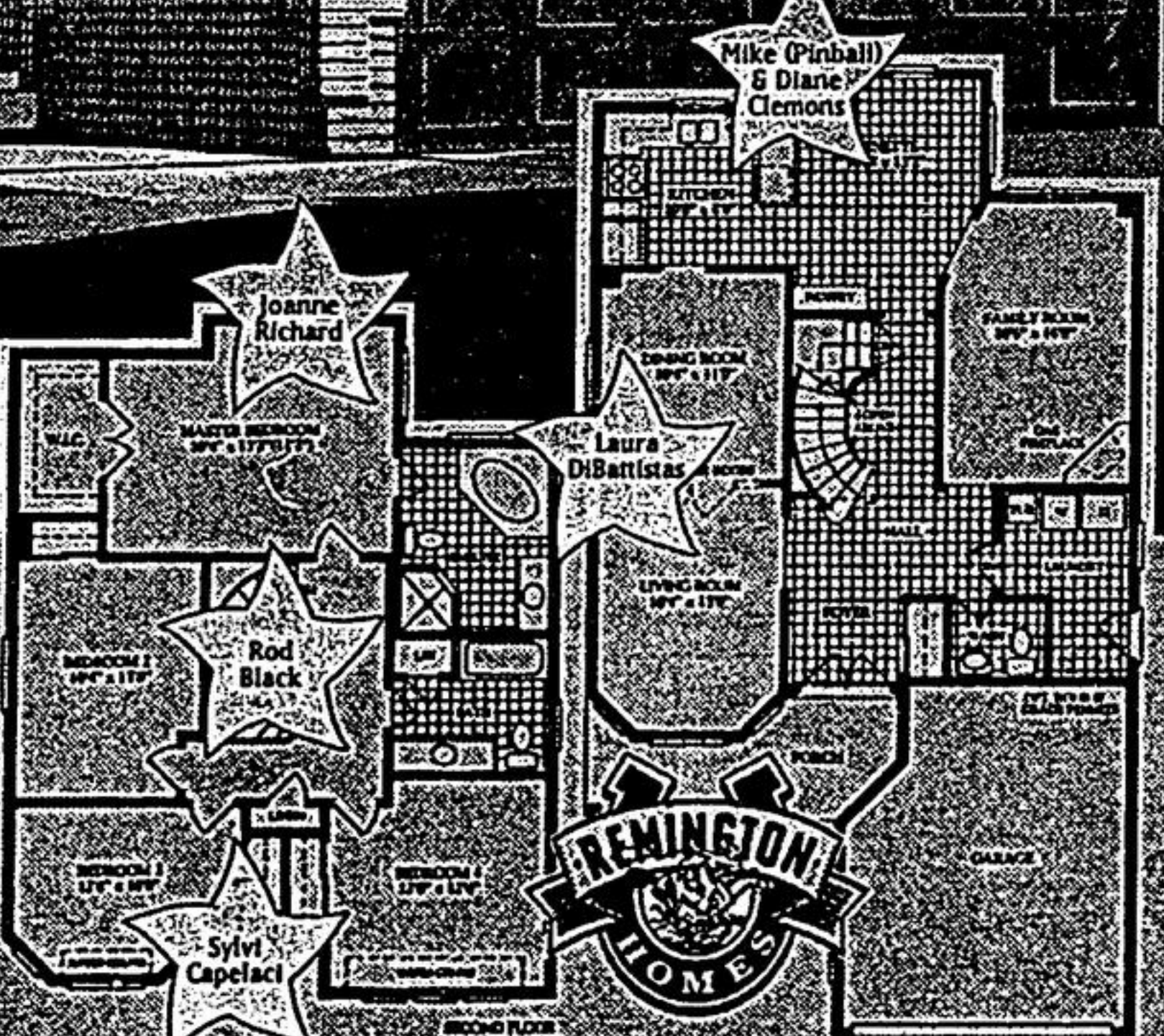


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