

Flyer WATCH

Inserts for Saturday December 30, 2000

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Walmart | Dominion* |
| Shoppers Drug Mart | Fabriclean Cleaners* |
| The Bay* | Sears - Major Appliance* |
| Sears* | North Durham |
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- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Crispin Court | Leighland Drive | Fred Varley Drive | Carnforth Drive |
| The Bridle Trail | Normandale Road | Hastings Drive | Village Gate |
| Main St. Unionville | Longwater Chase | John Button Blvd | Eyer Drive |
| McKay Crescent | Oakhaven Drive | Garcia Street | Emmeloord Cres. |
| Waterbridge Lane | Rowland Court | Ray Street | Spicer Circle |
| Gaudette Road | Calvert Court | Lazenby Court | Pratt Circle |
| Wembley Avenue | Pomander Road | Tuscay Court | Holmesdale Drive |
| Ferrah Road | Hollingham Road | Tomlinson Circle | Halstead Road |
| Conistan Road | Coledale Road | Captain Francis Dr. | Morrison Cres. |
| Trunpour Court | White Lotus Cir. | Coledale Road | Calderbridge Cres. |
| Loweswater Ave. | Mary Elizabeth Cres. | Fitzgerald Road | Major Elliott Court |
| Litchfield Rd. | Fairholme Road | Leighland Drive | Brantwood Court |
| Sutton Court | Townson Road | Cranleigh Drive | Sciberras Road |
| Hoodview Court | John Stiver Cres. | Ingelborough Ct. | Heatherwood Cres. |
| Hans Avenue | Queensgate Court | Greentree Road | Robert Street |
| Swansea Road | Briarwood Road | Russell Court | Janna Court |
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New law will protect women better, says shelter director

BY STEFANIA RIZZI
Staff Writer

A new provincial law to better protect victims of domestic violence is sending a strong message that abuse will not be tolerated, says the director of a York Region women's shelter.

"It's a very, very good step forward. It's an indication they're taking the issue more seriously," said Yellow Brick House director Filomena Williams.

"There's always going to be the man who has no respect for the law or women.

"The (law) will not stop the killing, but if society says it is going to enforce the consequences, then a few men will think twice about (abusing their partner)."

The Domestic Violence Protection Act, passed by the provincial government before the Christmas break, replaces restraining orders with tougher "intervention orders".

The legislation prohibits contact between abusers and victims and provides additional ways to keep victims safe.

One of the weaknesses of restraining orders, said Williams, is they are time-consuming to obtain through family court and aren't much of a deterrent.

Violation of a restraining order is a provincial offence and violators are most often fined or have to serve up to six months in jail.

Unlike restraining orders, intervention orders will be enforceable under the Criminal Code and abusers will face tougher terms and conditions for detention and release.

It took something like the Montreal Massacre to make Canadians realize this affects our children and abuse is serious.

Intervention orders will be easier to obtain, since judges or justices of the peace will be available to issue the orders 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Previously, judges and justices were available only during business hours.

The intervention orders will hold more clout, but only if they are enforced, Williams said.

"If the restraining orders were broken, (offenders) would go back to court, get a slap on the hand and be told, 'Don't do it again,'" she said.

"If they break the intervention orders, it will be taken seriously because criminal action is involved."

Williams agrees with critics who say the provincial government has been slow to respond to the need for improved domestic violence legislation.

"Mostly because women's issues are not uppermost," explained Williams, whose organization houses 450 women at the shelter in Aurora and runs an outreach service for up to 650 women in Thornhill.

"Governments acknowledge there's violence against women. They always promise to do something, but don't always deliver.

"It took something like the Montreal Massacre to make Canadians realize this affects our children and abuse is serious."

One drawback to the legislation, said Williams, is that it falls short in addressing abusers' need for treatment for their harmful behaviour.

"I have not received the Bill, but I do hope it enforces help for abusers," she said.

"To throw them in jail without treating them will not solve the problem because they'll become more angry than before."

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