



## Halton's 16th Annual Take Back the Night Event

*Aug. 12, 2006*

**Halton:** The Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS) will be hosting the 16th Annual Take Back the Night march for Halton. Each year, Take Back the Night brings our community together to speak out and march to end violence against women and children.

Take Back the Night as an event began in Germany in 1973, in response to a series of sexual assaults, rapes and murders. In the following years, the event spread to many countries. Halton began having Take Back the Night marches in 1990. Take Back The Night marches are now held internationally in all parts of the world, and the message is the same: that women and children have a right to be free from violence in their lives.

We know that violence is gendered. In Canada, 1 in 2 women will experience at least one incident of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. More specifically, in 2004, 11 738 women were sexually assaulted, compared to 1 900 men. Further, 98% of individuals charged with sexual assault in 2004 were men. In Halton alone, there were 175 reported cases of sexual assault in 2005.

"The Take Back The Night is opportunity for Halton residents to come together and demand that Halton be violence free" said Zehra Haffajee, SAVIS Public Education Coordinator. "This is also an opportunity to bring awareness to sexual violence and inspire action to bring about positive change. The march is symbolic of our right as women to walk freely in our neighbourhoods without male accompaniment and fear of being a target of violence."

The event will be held on Thursday September 14, 2006 at Coronation Park in Oakville (on Lakeshore Rd.) and is set to begin at 6:00 p.m. Guests will include keynote speaker Pamela Appelt, Canada's first Black female judge, Canadian Court of Citizenship.

There will also be performances by singer/songwriter Sarah Melody, survivor and poet Denise Anderson and others. This is a community event with community booths, face painting and a henna artist.

At night, those gathered will march down Lakeshore Road by candlelight. The evening will include individuals sharing how sexual violence affects their lives

and the community as a whole.

For more information contact SAVIS at 905- 825-3622.