

## **Take Back the Night drawing near**

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In Canada, one in two women will experience at least one incident of physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. Locally, there were 175 reported cases of sexual assault in Halton last year alone.

In an effort to bring down these startling numbers, the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS) of Halton will host its 16th annual Take Back the Night march for Halton.

Each year, the event brings the community together in an effort to end violence against women and children. The march will take place September 14 at Coronation Park in Oakville at 6 p.m.

Participants will march down Lakeshore Road by candlelight, and individuals will share how sexual violence has affected their lives and affects the community as a whole.

Guests will include keynote speaker Pamela Appelt, Canada's first black female judge in the Canadian Court of Citizenship, plus singer/songwriter Sarah Melody and poet Denise Anderson.

"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," said Zehra Haffajee, SAVIS public education co-ordinator.