

community profile

# Together we are ending violence against women and their children

The Woman Abuse Working Group (WAWG) is a coalition led by Violence Against Women (VAW) women's organizations, working with community and government agencies, individuals, survivors and consumers, who are committed to the eradication of violence against women and their children. WAWG strives to reflect and represent the diversity of the community. November is Woman Abuse Awareness month - look for WAWG's community booths in various hospitals and malls during the month and check out the website [www.wawg.ca](http://www.wawg.ca) for a full calendar of events.

Guided by an anti-racist, anti-oppression feminist framework, WAWG supports efforts through advocacy, education and leadership to engage the community to end violence against women (and their children) by working to remove systemic barriers that perpetuate this violence. Initiatives include focusing efforts on advocacy, systemic change and social justice as they affect women (and their children) who have experienced violence; assisting VAW community in increasing its presence in Family Court, and identifying barriers and gaps in services for women and investigate resolutions; and promoting education and events that advocate the elimination of violence and promote equality.



## Woman Abuse Working Group

### The Hamilton Spectator: What are you doing to change our community?

Women Abuse Working Group: We are launching a new campaign called "It's Not Just About Her". This campaign focuses on the impact of violence against women and how it affects children, families and communities. This publication will be delivered to schools, libraries, social service agencies and health and community centres. The document will also be linked to our new and improved website at [www.wawg.ca](http://www.wawg.ca). Our website has many resources for the Hamilton community and is a 24/7 local source of information about woman abuse.

### The Hamilton Spectator: What inspires you?

Women Abuse Working Group: Being part of a movement that eradicates violence in our community inspires and motivates us. Violence is not just about her...woman abuse hurts everybody. It is everyone's responsibility to help end violence against women (and their children). Pervasive and widespread, woman abuse and sexual violence harm women of all ages, sexual orientations, racial and ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic classes, and religions. Children and youth exposed to violence are at risk of learning problems, emotional trauma, low self-esteem, behavioral issues, stress related pains and illnesses, permanent disabilities, social isolation and more.

### The Hamilton Spectator:

#### Name one thing about your event/organization that should inspire others.

Women Abuse Working Group: In a typical year, over 100,000 woman and children flee to shelters. It costs \$317 million annually to operate Canadian shelters for abused women. Annual costs associated with violence against women add up to \$5.7 billion. We may call it woman abuse, but it knows no limits and respects no boundaries. Woman abuse is not just her issue or their business – it is everybody's business. It involves all of us. Because when one woman experiences abuse or sexual violence, everybody hurts.



For more information, contact Valerie Sadler, Chair, Woman Abuse Working Group and Director, Women's Services - Inasmuch House at 905-529-8149 ext. 301 or [wawg\\_pc@yahoo.com](mailto:wawg_pc@yahoo.com)

## The Hamilton Spectator is dedicated to building our community.

### Hallowe'en SPOOKtacular for Make-A-Wish

The Meadowvale Spookies Paranormal Research Team invites you to the Hallowe'en SPOOKtacular on Friday, October 30 from 6 to 11 pm, all in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Make-A-Wish Foundation enriches the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. Funds raised will stay in the Hamilton area, supporting local children. Food, fun, live music and the most ghoulish guests imaginable. "Rescue Mediums" Jackie Dennison

and Alison Wynne-Ryder, Criminal Profiler/Psychic Medium Robbie Thomas and "Haunted Ontario" author Terry Boyle. Wear a costume, raise money for Make-A-Wish and raise the spirits at the old customs house! Get ghoulish at the Workers Arts and Heritage Center, Hamilton Custom House, 51 Stuart Street, Hamilton. Tickets will be sold at the door; cost is \$30. Contact Carrie Pierce at [meadowvalespookies@yahoo.ca](mailto:meadowvalespookies@yahoo.ca) or visit [www.msprtspooktacular.eventbrite.com](http://www.msprtspooktacular.eventbrite.com) for more information.



### Public board students can't wait for We Day Hamilton and another year of making a difference

Canada's top inspirational speakers and performers are coming to Hamilton on November 5 to celebrate the power of young people and inspire them to change the lives of others. A Free the Children initiative made possible by Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, We Day is a way to advance student achievement through leadership, character, and social justice education. See how our students changed the world last year at [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca)



### Honour Our Heroes: A Remembrance Day Celebration

Songbird Sarena Paton, along with special guests, will salute veterans in a moving and meaningful celebration on November 11 at Hamilton Place, starting at 7:30 pm. Veterans and a guest are welcomed free of charge; other tickets are \$20. Sarena's events are not to be missed! Veterans, please call 905-546-4085 to reserve seats; all other tickets can be purchased at the Copps Coliseum Box Office, by calling 905-527-7666 or by visiting [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)



### Commemorate Holocaust Education Week Nov. 1 - 9

The Hamilton Jewish Federation Holocaust Education Committee presents Holocaust Education Week from November 1 – 9, 2009. The series of events for education and commemoration begins with *Rene and I*, a documentary film showing at Temple Anshe Sholom on November 1 at 7:30 pm. On Thursday, November 5th, 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Alexander Centre (Crowne Plaza Hamilton) there is a screening of the winner of the Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*. The final event of the Holocaust Education Week will be the Community Kristallnacht Commemoration with the screening of a special documentary film called *All Jews Out*, showing at the Adas Israel Synagogue on November 9 at 7:30 pm. For more information on events, visit [www.jewishhamilton.org](http://www.jewishhamilton.org)



Our previous community funding still exists and will now be under a new name: SpecKids Unlimited. SpecKids Unlimited has a vision to play a leadership role in our community, by making a difference in the lives of youth and children. The SpecKids Unlimited mandate is a simple one: to improve the lives of children and youth in our community.

Funds donated to SpecKids Unlimited support the following initiatives: The Hamilton Spectator Summer Camp Fund; Jeff Dickins Memorial Award; Hess Kids Unlimited; and Community Building. This is a partnership between the Hamilton Community Foundation and The Hamilton Spectator. For more information, contact Jane at [jallison@thespec.com](mailto:jallison@thespec.com)