



Athena's

Sexual Assault Counselling & Advocacy Centre

...a program of Huronia Transition Homes

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

2010

Faith Nolan, our returning performance artist states:

"I feel like the best people in the world, people like Martin Luther King, have made the world a better place for people. I always wanted to be part of this greater movement to making humanity better for all of us."



**BARRIE CITY HALL
ROTUNDA**

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2010
6:00 P.M.**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
RALLY - MARCH
ENTERTAINMENT
FREE REFRESHMENTS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ATHENA'S: 705-737-2884**

A March to End All Violence Against Women

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

A March to End All Violence Against Women

What is Take Back the Night?

Take Back the Night is an internationally held march and rally intended as a protest and direct action against rape and other forms of violence against women. It enables large numbers of women to publicly express their anger at the sexual violence that goes on and the victim blaming that accompanies it. Not every woman has been sexually assaulted, but every woman has been taught to fear it. We are told from the time we are rather young not to walk alone, not to go out after dark, to avoid strangers and to avoid dangerous areas of town. This advice is useless in the face of reality. Given that the largest numbers of women who experience violence are in their own home and it's at the hands of someone they know. The Take Back the Night March is a public protest organized by women, for women. It serves as a means for women to unite and voice their desire to end the fear and perceived responsibility women experience when it comes to sexual assault, harassment, and other forms of violence.

The History of Take Back the Night.

Take Back the Night's roots may lie in 1877 when women protested the fear and violence they experienced in the night-time streets of London, England. Others believe that the first rally occurred in 1976 when women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women lit candles and took to the moonlit streets of Belgium to denounce the continuation of violence against women. While the origins of Take Back the Night may be disputed, its impact is undeniable. Since its inception, thousands of marches and rallies bearing the name Take Back the Night have taken place worldwide. The hope of Take Back the Night made its way stateside in 1978 when protesters in San Francisco invoked the slogan following an anti-pornography conference. On that night, those who had been adversely affected by pornography openly shared their stories with those who had gathered. Since then, Take Back the Night events have spread across the nation broadening in perspective and taking on many forms. Today, marches are held in not only in numerous cities in the United States, but in Canada, Latin America, India, and Europe.

Why the March is a Woman-Only March.

Take Back the Night is an event geared toward empowering women to confront fears about rape and assault by reclaiming the evening streets en masse. The event calls for safety and equality for women in all places, at all times. It is a far more powerful statement for women to be marching through the streets at night without any men to 'protect' them. It is also a chance to publicly celebrate women's solidarity: the march is women-only to symbolically underline that women will not be passive & accept the violence against them but will instead speak out & take action together for change.

Why We March.

- To stand together as women, refusing to be silent about sexual violence.
- To state our refusal to take responsibility for sexual harassment, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, incest and battering, and recognizing that only the perpetrator of these crimes is to blame.
- To celebrate the steps we are taking to support each other and to create change
- To experience the freedom of what it is like to walk at night and not be dependant on the protection of men.
- To remind each other that as individuals we have strength and together we are even stronger.
- To remember our sisters who have survived, and those who have been taken from us, as a result of sexual violence.
- To shout out our desire to live freely without the threat and fear of violence.

What Men Can Do.

- Stand along the March route and cheer us on. If you are in a car, honk your horn to show support.
- Distribute reading material on dispelling the myths about sexual assault and violence against women during the March
- Take part in the rally and post-march celebration.
- Provide child care for the women in your life.



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