

Economic hard times can be abusive times

By DAN PELTON
Staff Reporter

The abuse of women and families knows no socio-economic, racial or ethnic boundaries and thrives in difficult economic times.

Orangeville having proclaimed November Woman Abuse Prevention Month, Norah Kennedy of Family Transition Place (FTP) spoke at last week's town council meeting and related that "the impact of the recession is significant and we are starting to see

that impact. "The 1,000 more calls we have received on our crisis line seem to be an indicator of that." FTP, an agency that provides support for victims of abuse and sexual assault survivors, reports that it has received 3,982

calls to its crisis line in 2009. It has provided shelter, this year, for 162 women and 103 children. Other groups in this region are joining to fight against this problem, including the Dufferin-Caledon Domestic Assault Review Team (DART),

which was founded in 1994 to improve the working relationships, communications and response services of Dufferin and Caledon serving victims of women abuse. DART has compiled a list of what it regards as "frightening facts" about women abuse, starting with the statistic that 50 per cent of Canadian women are physically or sexually assaulted at least once in their lifetimes.

As well, 68 per cent of all single mothers reported experiencing violence in previous marriages and common-law unions, females aged 15 to 24 had the highest rate of spousal homicide between 1994 and 2003 and, from 2003 to 2004, 17,226 women and 11,565 dependent

children were admitted to shelters in Ontario. There have been encouraging signs,

though. Ms. Kennedy told council that the violence prevention programs in schools have been so well

received that there is a waiting list for schools

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Photo/ABERLOUR CREATION

NEW BAKERY: Shown (left to right) Jenn Brewster, Pia Wiesen, Xel Campbell of Pia's Bakery, Orangeville's newest baked goods outlet, based at 177 Broadway, which opened this month and will have a grand opening celebration on December 5.

New bakery marks opening

Orangeville's new bakery on Broadway is about to have a grand opening.

Pia's Bakery, at 177 Broadway, opened its doors to the public earlier this month after 10 weeks of construction work. The grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, when Mayor Rob Adams will cut the ribbon at 5 p.m.

Pia Wiesen and her partners are inviting the public to join in on the occasion. Profits of the sales that day will benefit Dufferin Child and Family Services, which supports less privileged young people in our community.

Pia's is an old-world-style bakery which brings back the craft of hand-made breads and pastries. Based in a historic Victorian building, it boasts a classy interior that reflects the quality of the food. Pia's sister, Evelyn Gebele of Aberlour Creation, displays a small exhibition of black-and-white photo art of local nature and architecture.

Business partners Jenn Brewster and Xel Campbell honed their baking and cooking skills when they owned Seasons on Mill Street and are both excited to be part of this new venture. They bring in many recipes, complimented by Pia's grandmother's secrets.

Pia grew up in the German province of Saarland, very close to the French and Luxembourg borders. Naturally, this blend of different cultures created an excellent cuisine which Orangeville can now experience.

Every product is made in-house, every morning freshly baked. Ingredients are organic, natural and whenever possible, local.

The labour-intensive preparation in conjunction with premium ingredients has its price but customers are invited to taste the difference compared to factory-processed products.

A deli section featuring cheeses and selected meats, catering services

and a large selection of take-out lunches are also on the menu.

The owners' belief in fresh, natural and healthy is also reflected in the environmentally friendly aspects of the store. No plastic bags are used and take-out containers are bio-degradable. Lighting is the latest in LED technology, saving almost 90% of electricity. The water heater is tankless,

and the dishwasher high-efficiency, saving even more power and fuel.

All detergents and cleaning agents are by Planet Earth from local entrepreneur Bob Wagner. His products meet the strictest environmental standards and are fully bio-degradable as well. So while it all looks and tastes old-world, the bakery is forward-looking in that respect.

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