

# Sexual Assault on PEI

by Lorna Hutchison

Last year 103 sexual assaults of children and adults were reported to police on Prince Edward Island. Compound this figure with the national statistics that only one in ten people report sexual assaults to the police and the number is likely 1,030. As you can imagine, with this high figure in one year, the total number of survivors of sexual abuse and assault on PEI is very high.

Don't be tricked though, most were not the stranger rapes that get our attention. On Prince Edward Island 15% of these crimes were committed by strangers. Most of the assaults were by family members (30%) and acquaintances (50%)\*. In these cases it becomes much more problematic to protect ourselves from the ones who are supposed to love and care for us.

Sexual assault is any intentional use of force against another person involving some form of sexual activity without that person's consent. No one asks to be raped. Sexual assault is an aggressive, brutal, degrading and violent crime, not to be confused with sexual or romantic desire. People are

raped against their will by violence or the threat of violence, and tragically, every woman and child no matter what age, social or economic status is vulnerable to rape.

The PEI Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre is dedicated to providing support to victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse. We provide a 24-hour, 7 day-a-week confidential service, information on police investigation, medical needs and legal procedures, therapy for survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, and speakers, literature and workshops for public education. We also provide support and information to family and friends of survivors.

If you are concerned about sexual assault of children and adults on our Island and you would like to help by volunteering on a crisis line, please call 566-1864. Training begins soon.

*\*Note the perpetrators were unknown by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (branch of Statistics Canada) in the other 5% of the cases.*



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## UPEI Wind Symphony Performance

The University of Prince Edward Island will present its Wind Symphony in recital on Thursday, November 23, 2000, at 7:30 PM at the Dr. Steel Recital Hall.

The 46-member Wind Symphony is under the direction of Dr. Karem J. Simon, who is known throughout the region for his conducting, adjudicating and concertizing. The UPEI Wind Symphony has received acclaim for its performance standard and innovative programming. While it has toured throughout the maritimes, Wind Symphony's most recent performances have occurred in Hampton, and Moncton, New Brunswick.

The programming for Thursday's

concert is eclectic, accessible, and entertaining. Among the featured works are Gustav Holst's *Mars* and David Gillingham's *A Crescent Still Abides*. Other works including *Children's March* by Percy Grainger and the fascinating contemporary piece *Crystals* by Thomas Duffy will be performed. *Crystals* is a very interesting piece that portrays different kinds of stones. This piece uses some uncommon instrumentation such as a lion's roar and water gong, but also uses one common household item, wine glasses.

Admission for this concert is \$5.00 (Adults) and \$3.00 Students/Seniors. The public is cordially invited to attend.

