

# THE EXPOSITOR

Brantford Expositor (ON)  
Local news, Monday, April 4, 2005, p. A5

## Abuse group highlighted at conference

BRANTFORD - The three founders of Brantford's Voices Against Elder Abuse were spotlighted at a conference last week in the nation's capital.

Heather Haw, Jean Bowen and Lesley Anthony were part of the keynote address at The Elder Abuse Puzzle: Where Do I Fit?

Anthony did a presentation at the one-day conference and Haw and Bowen sat on a panel to answer questions from the audience.

The Ottawa organizers showed the W-Five program that highlighted Bowen and Anthony's fight to protect senior Norma Stenson from elder abuse.

### PEOPLE CRYING

"People were crying," said Bowen. "We were prepared to talk about abuse in general, but they really wanted to hear the story of Norma."

Haw said the event was a big help to the cause because the three women -- who founded Voices Against Elder Abuse -- met a number of high-profile movers and shakers in Ottawa.

"This will open more doors for us," Haw said.

The Brantford women flew to Ottawa courtesy of Citizen Advocacy of Ottawa, a grassroots charity that's entering its fourth decade of community work.

Anthony was excited by one of the advocacy group's programs that matches an abused person with a community member.

### GREAT CONTACTS

"I was also interested to see people so angry about abuse. We made some great contacts," she said.

"It's probably the most important thing that's happened to Voices."

The group operates out of an office at 44 Elgin St. It continues to circulate a petition to push Ontario into regulating retirement homes. It is also wants the federal government to include elder abuse in the Criminal Code.

The group can be contacted at 751-3331, toll-free at 1-877-75-ABUSE (752-2873) or through the Internet at [www.voicesagainstelderabuse.com](http://www.voicesagainstelderabuse.com).

Anthony said the Web site is beginning to attract attention from western Canada.

© 2005 Brantford Expositor (ON). All rights reserved.