

THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

Visit us at www.theifp.ca



Sports, pg. 37

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper serving Acton & Georgetown

56 Pages

50 Cents (+HST)

Just a bit

Halton Hills has received an 'interim payment' — just a third of what was requested — for the damage sustained during the December 2013 ice storm.

See page 4



A CARING CANADIAN

Saloma Smith of Georgetown has received the Caring Canadian Award.

See page 33



facebook.com/Independent&FreePress
Twitter: @IFP_11

metrolandmedia
Connected to your community™

Homeless in Halton Hills

It's not just a big city issue

By **Melanie Hennessey**
Special to The IFP

It was just another typical evening for *Howard, a teen living in Halton Hills.

After hanging out with his buddy until bedtime, he gathered up a pillow and blanket and headed outside into the frigid winter air. As he created a make-shift bed in a car that belonged to his friend's parents, he started thinking ahead to where his next meal would come from and how he would get to school in the morning.

Like several other teens in the community, Howard was homeless. While one won't see local youth sleeping on street corners or begging for money, the problem is very real in Halton Hills, and is on the rise, said Links2Care Executive Director Kate Power.

"This is not a new issue," she said. "Numbers are certainly increasing, along with the complexity of the issues that surround youth who are homeless."

Since last April, Links2Care has assisted 31 homeless youths and six others at risk of homelessness in Halton Hills. Almost half of them slept outside at one



point. During the previous fiscal year (from April 2013-March 2014), Links2Care helped 29 homeless youths and 10 at risk of homelessness.

Power said when "couch surfing," or short-term stays at the homes of friends, neighbours

and other youth, is exhausted, homeless youth resort to other means.

"Youth stay at 24-hour fast food places, laundromats, inside clothing donation bins, under bridges and in forests and ravines," she said. "Youth go where

they can stay warm and safe."

Most recently, Links2Care became aware of three youths in the community who were homeless and sleeping outside in the biting cold temperatures that have been par for the course this winter.

Continued on page 39



Thinking of
buying or
selling?

Call
Effie Dimou
for all your real
estate needs.
905-877-5211
Dir: 416-991-4247

EFFIE DIMOU
Sales Representative

www.georgetownrealty.ca
edimou@georgetownrealty.ca

RE/MAX
Real Estate Centre Inc., Brokerage

GEORGETOWN
CHEVROLET Buick GMC
33 Mountainview Rd. North,
Georgetown
905-877-6944
www.georgetownchev.com

CHEVROLET
FULLY LOADED LEASE EVENT
WITH YOUR FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT ON US.
ELIGIBLE OWNERS RECEIVE
\$1,500 IN WINTER CASH.
See dealer for details



Your Home Sold For
100% Market Value
Guaranteed
Or I Will Pay You
The Difference*

Angie Cormpilas
Broker

RE/MAX REAL ESTATE CENTRE INC., BROKERAGE

905-877-3629 Direct

www.RealEstateGeorgetown.com