'THE POTENTIAL FOR THIS IS AMAZING': HPRT CHAIR

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"(It's) a very affluent region. To some, recognizing that poverty even exists in Halton is a challenge," said Park, noting that there are over 44,000 individuals who live below the poverty line in the region — 11,000 of them being children under the age of 14.

In a bid to provide "a stronger, larger voice" around the issue, the agency announced early this month that it has joined forces with the Halton Poverty Roundtable (HPRT).

"It just made sense for us to look at what the organizations might look like if we amalgamate them," he said, adding that HPRT has been sharing an office with UWHH free of rent since its inception about nine years ago.

With the unification, HPRT can tap into UWHH's fundraising prowess to help raise more funds to support its programs, as well as the now-available marketing and communications resources — though the HPRT branding isn't going anywhere.

THE ISSUE:
AGENCIES' PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO STRENGTHEN FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY
LOCAL IMPACT: ALMOST 45,000 HALTON RESIDENTS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE.

June Cockwell, chair of HPRT, shared her excitement over the unification of the two organizations.

"The potential for this is amazing," she said, hoping that the "much more efficient, effective, and sustainable" organization can better reveal the faces of poverty within Halton and help eliminate them.

As the one and only staff of HPRT in the past, Sarah Sabihuddin — now senior manager of community impact with UWHH — said she didn't have much capacity and time to actually focus on everything that was critical in the community.

"Poverty is growing, the income gap is getting bigger, and there are more struggles in our community. A lot of my time was focused on maintaining an organizational structure," Sabihuddin said.

The new structure allows her to focus more on the mission and mandate of helping the people who are in need, amplifying their voices, educating the community and advocating to government for change.

"This gives us a bigger platform to do that," the Oakville resident said. "We have a great plan going forward."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Agencies' amalgamation part of Metroland Halton's continuing effort to shine a light on the often hidden but all-too-real issue of local poverty.

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COMMUNITY NOTICE
Annual Vegetation Management Program

CN is required to clear its rights-of-way from any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway rights-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

As such, for safe railway operations, the annual vegetation control program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified applicator will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (mainly the graveled area/ ballast). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

At this time, we expect that the program will take place from May 6, 2019 to July 12, 2019.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation to see the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

For more information, you may contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at 1-888-888-5909.