

Say 'No' to bullying

It can feel like a lonely, confusing time if you are being bullied.

And while our community has stepped up to throw support behind anti-bullying messages, awareness and actions, it may still not feel like a perfect world if you are a victim.

Sometimes, you can feel like you've fallen through the cracks, or that there are cracks in the systems that don't quite deliver on the well-intentioned promises.

Don't give up.

Often people reach out for help or to say more needs to be done. Often the media, and others, must adhere to boundaries, such as those that affect youths, allegations that are not convictions in court, privacy laws. While all those boundaries exist for good reason, they concurrently make it difficult to single out problems, specifically bullying and abuse.

Knowing where to turn can be the best help that can be offered because there are places and people within our community that can help. We can all do that.

Typically, everyone in a position of authority is aware of the problem of bullying. They all represent an authority — school board, police service, medical profession, community counselling or advocate, government — that has taken a stand against, and has protocol in place to deal with, the issue.

And while it may sometimes require repeated attempts at approaching local resources to connect with the right assistance, keep trying if you are a victim.

This coming week is a good time to learn about and connect with resources as schools throughout the Halton District School Board (HDSB) hold numerous activities Nov. 19-25 — to recognize the Ontario Ministry of Education's designated Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. The goal is to encourage and promote respect for everyone while increasing awareness and prevention of bullying, says the board.

"The Halton District School Board is always proud to highlight Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week," says Stuart Miller, HDSB director of education. "Students must feel welcomed, safe and secure in their schools in order to be motivated to achieve success. We strive to emphasize to our students and staff, not just during this week, but throughout the year, that we all have a role in showing respect for each other. We are always working toward creating a culture of inclusion for all of our students," said Miller.

Schools are hosting various activities during the week and throughout November.

Burlington's M.M. Robinson High School will see staff providing students and staff with encouraging messages and a 'Pink Shirt and Resource Day' Nov. 23.

Georgetown District High School's GSA and Gender Studies Class will honour the Transgender Day of Remembrance Monday, Nov. 21. Milton's Brookville Public School Grade 7 and 8 'Allies Team,' will visit classes to share information and strategies on how to respond to bullying.

Oakville's Pine Grove Public School celebrates 'PEACE Week. Activities include holding a 'KIND Campaign' assembly for female students Grades 6 to 8, focused on bullying prevention among girls. A workshop for male students will discuss healthy and supportive relationships and bullying prevention strategies.

According to the board, it is "committed to empowering students and staff to stand up to bullying and inequity, as well as standing together to build safe, equitable, caring and inclusive environments in all schools throughout the school year."



ABOUT US

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The Beaver.

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ASSOCIATION

InsideHalton.com

editor@oakvillebeaver.com

@OakvilleBeav

@oakvillebeaver

insidehalton.com

My View

Two-year review of federal accomplishments

Oct. 19 marked the two-year anniversary of the last federal election. It has been a privilege to represent the interests of Oakvillians and I remain thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

We've seen many positive changes in Canada as a result of a change in government in 2015, and I am very proud of the progress we've made.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the federal government's legislative accomplishments.

On the economic front, Canada continues to exceed analysts' expectations and is expected to outperform all other G7 countries in 2017.

Consumer and business spending is strong, and the unemployment rate is the lowest it's been since 2008.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) cited government spending as one factor propelling our economy.

Our investments in public transit proj-

John Oliver

Oakville MP



ects, rail safety improvements, affordable housing, and business innovation are paying off.

see Vowing on p.12

Pud
by
Steve Nease



CONTACT US

The Oakville Beaver

5046 Mainway, Unit 2, Burlington ON L7L 5Z1
Phone 905-845-3824 / Fax 905-337-5568
Classified 1-800-263-6480
Digital/Flyers/Retail Advertising 289-293-0624
Real Estate/Homefinder.ca Advertising -
Suzanne Trickey / 289-293-0677 /
strickey@oakvillebeaver.com

Letters to the editor

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ablackburn@oakvillebeaver.com

Delivery

For all delivery inquiries, please call 1-866-838-8960 or email Customerservice@metroland.com



WHO WE ARE

Vice-President and Group Publisher of Metroland West

Neil Oliver

Regional General Manager

Kelly Montague
kmontague@metroland.com / 289-293-0614

Advertising Director

Daniel Baird / dbaird@metroland.com / 289-293-0624

Managing Editor

Angela Blackburn / ablackburn@oakvillebeaver.com / 289-293-0617

Director of Distribution

Charlene Hall / chall@metroland.com / 905-631-6095