



HIGH BIDDER: Long-time former Rotary Club of Acton auctioneer Ken Claperton bid \$700 for an afghan and two pillows, crocheted by the late Gramma Manes, at the recent Rotary auction and gala. — Ted Tyler photo

May is sexual assault month

This month, service providers across Canada will host events and participate in activities to raise awareness about sexual violence. The Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS) is a non-profit organization, funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General dedicated to ending sexual violence and supporting survivors. SAVIS provides free, confidential, 24 hour support to survivors of violence, advocates against violence in the community at large and promotes prevention through education.

In May, SAVIS will:

- Host a free community forum on "Cyber Violence in Halton Region" on May 31 at the Oakville Public Library
- Deliver preventative educational presentations throughout Halton Region in elementary and high schools
- Facilitate a drop-in Spanish-speaking women's group in Burlington on Tuesdays
- Facilitate a drop-in Multicultural women's group in Oakville on Fridays
- Facilitate a violence prevention group at the Vanier Centre for Women in Milton

• Support the No one asks for it! Wear purple on Friday, May 6 campaign

Sexual violence is much more common than most people realize. Approximately one in three Canadian women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, and about one in six men will experience sexual assault in their lifetime. Sexual violence can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religion, or socio-economic status. It does not matter what a person is wearing or if a person was drinking. No one asks or deserves to be sexually assaulted.

During the month of May, please join SAVIS in dispelling the myths surrounding sexual violence.

Spring compost is free & plentiful

Halton Region's popular spring Compost Give Away runs until Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Halton Waste Management Site (HWMS), on Regional Road 25, in Milton.

"This spring more than 1,500-tonnes of processed compost is being offered to Halton residents as a thank you for diverting large amounts of leaf and yard waste from the landfill," said Halton's Regional Chair, Gary Carr.

"The compost has been produced from all of the leaves, brush and other yard waste material residents have set out for collection in the Region's yard waste program and

from materials dropped off at the HWMS."

During last year's spring Compost Give Away, 3,280 residents came to the Halton Waste Management Site and picked up approximately 1,500-tonnes of compost. Halton residents also dropped off approximately five-tonnes of food and over \$7,400 which was donated to local food banks throughout the Region.

Residents at this year's spring Compost Give Away are again encouraged to bring a cash donation or a non-perishable food item.

In 2010, approximately 32,000-tonnes of yard waste was collected from

residents to make the compost available at this year's event.

Residents must bring their own bags or containers (maximum seven per household) and a shovel in order to pick up their compost. For best growing results, compost should be mixed together with topsoil or another gardening fill. A 60/40 split (60 per cent topsoil and 40 per cent compost) is recommended.

For more information on the spring Compost Give Away contact Halton Region by dialing 311 or 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-442-5866, TTY 905-827-9833 or visit www.halton.ca/waste

Age-friendly forum

By 2015, one of every seven people in Halton will be 65 or over. This demographic shift will affect businesses, health and social services, recreation, transportation, and government. Halton communities are looking for changes to make it easier for seniors to be safe, maintain their health, and participate fully in their community.

On Thursday, June 2, the Halton Region Elder Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) will host an Age-Friendly Communities Forum to develop ideas on how to continue to build age-friendly communities in Halton among

Halton seniors, business representatives, and community stakeholders.

"This forum is an excellent opportunity for businesses, service providers, and community organizers to hear directly from Halton seniors about what their needs are, and how these needs can be met," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

Sponsored by a federal New Horizons for Seniors Program grant, the forum will share and build on the results of focus group research recently conducted by ESAC. The forum will focus on understanding seniors' perspectives and generating ideas on how

communities can support them through the challenges they face and tap into their knowledge and skills as key members of our communities.

In an age-friendly community, businesses, policies, services, and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to continue to be contributing members of their community.

For more information or to register visit www.halton.ca/esac or call Halton by dialling 311 or toll free 1-866-442-5866. Registration closes May 18.

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