

# Town Digest

## SAVIS support

The Town could help SAVIS – Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton – by waving booking fees for SAVIS events, by staging dress-down fundraiser days and by including SAVIS information in Town newsletters and on its website. The request for help came from SAVIS public education co-ordinator Paula Lam at last Monday’s council meeting.

Lam said SAVIS – formerly the Halton Rape Crisis Centre – gets 75 per cent of funding from the province to provide free, confidential and non-judgmental services to women, 16 and older. In the past when they had funding, SAVIS operated a satellite office in Acton, and still has offices in Burlington, Oakville and Milton, along with a 24-hour hotline.

Lam offered some sobering statistics – 51 per cent of Canadian women

will experience at least one incident of sexual or physical violence in their lifetime, and one-in-four women will be sexually assaulted. “Fifty-four per of girls under the age of 15 have experienced some form of unwanted sexual attention; 24 per cent of those girls experienced sexual assault and 17 per cent have experienced incest,” Lam said, adding SAVIS had 2,127 client contacts last year, and 543 requests for help, including 602 calls on their 24-hour crisis line.

She said one of the best ways to prevent sexual violence is to work with elected officials and community leaders. “Together, we will make a difference.”

## Halton growth

Higher density – more apartments and townhouses than single family homes – and more affordable housing options are hallmarks of the Region’s latest population and employment

targets. At last Monday’s Town council meeting, Halton’s Director of Planning Services and Chief Planning Officials, Ron Glenn detailed how they will build “complete, healthy communities...” with jobs and housing growth keeping pace.

By 2031, Halton Hills will have 94,000 people and 43,000 jobs according to Halton’s latest figures. To stop urban sprawl, the provincial rules call for 40 per cent of new housing to be built in the built-up area, which will be defined by the province after 2015. The targets, in five-year increments, call for a minimum of 200 people and jobs per hectare in urban growth areas and a minimum density of 50 people and jobs per hectare in the Greenfield by 2031.

Halton Council is expected to approve the new population and employment targets at its July 13 meeting.



**BUY A BRICK:** Acton’s Penny McCabe manned the Heritage Acton Buy a Brick booth at the first Acton Farmer’s Market last Thursday. The brick campaign is raising money for an addition to the Town Hall Centre. – Ted Tyler photo



## Census can be completed despite postal strike

During the postal disruption, the 2011 Census can be completed online at [www.census2011.gc.ca](http://www.census2011.gc.ca) by using a secure access code.

Census interviewers are visiting households that have not yet returned a completed questionnaire. If an interviewer visits your household during the postal disruption,

give your completed census questionnaire to the interviewer. Interviewers carry official identification.

If postal services resume prior to an interviewer visit, return your completed census questionnaire by mail. By law, all households must complete the census.

Households selected

to complete the National Household Survey (NHS) can also do so online at [www.nhs.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.nhs.statcan.gc.ca). When postal services resume, completed NHS questionnaires should be returned by mail.

If you need help or a secure access code, call the Help Line at 1-877-777-2011. TTY users may call 1-866-753-7083.

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