

HHAAC aims to illuminate and eliminate barriers

All of us feel entitled to full and unimpeded access to education, information, housing, employment, the medical system, the justice system, and government. There are millions of citizens across Canada who are denied full access within our communities and are daily involved with pushing this issue to the forefront.

Many find themselves being denied access, either overtly or implied, due to race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation.

This column will focus on the growing segment of society that through birth, accident or aging, develop a physical or mental impairment. The challenges they face

In an effort to keep the streets and sidewalks safe for those with limited mobility, the Seniors West Planning and Education Advisory group and the North Halton Injury Prevention group co-hosted a workshop designed as a first step to creating a more walkable Acton for older adults who may or may not use mobility devices such as wheelchairs, canes, and scooters. The Town of Halton Hills, Links2Care, and the Halton Regional Police also partnered for this workshop. During the walking portion of the workshop, Andrew Tutty of Georgetown, a member of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee (left) pointed out a pothole/mud puddle to Town of Halton Hills Traffic Coordinator Matt Roj, along Mill Street in Acton.

Andrew Tutty



are enormous and of an ongoing nature. It affects us all; mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, husband and wife, and to our devastation, the children.

We all deal with the challenges of life differently. None can know how they'll react to circumstances heretofore never experienced. The emotions wrought can be overwhelming for the individual and their peers.

Anger, frustration, anguish, fear, and loneliness.

But there is also hope. Hope in one's ability to adapt to new challenges. Hope that others will gain understanding through our example and efforts. Understanding can be the first rung on the ladder to full integration of all members of society.

I can only speak to my own experiences. My family has been touched by both physical and mental impairments. This has provided us with insight into ourselves and each other. It has provided something which is of utmost importance. We can laugh at ourselves even with the trials being faced.

This is a most formidable coping mechanism. It is contagious. Although the issues are serious, I hope I can inject some levity from time to time. Like the day that my sister... well that can be for a later article.

Andrew Tutty is a member of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee (HHAAC)



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Summer Safety Tips for Kids:

- There is safety in numbers. Ask a friend or two to go along with you to the park.
- Make sure your parents or another adult knows that you are going to the park. If they accompany you, make sure they know where you are at all times.
- If you go to the park after dark, play in well-lit areas.
- Stay away from strangers. If you ever feel that you are in danger, find a trusted adult or go to a nearby business and ask for help.
- Bring a cell phone or carry some change in case you need to make a phone call.

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