

Town employee recognized with Smart Commute Champion Award by Metrolinx

The Town of Halton Hills continues to champion the Smart Commute Program in our community. Smart Commute is a program of Metrolinx and the municipalities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. The program helps commuters explore and try alternative modes of transportation such as walking, cycling, transit and carpooling. The goals of the Smart Commute program are to ease gridlock while saving commuters time and money. The program has reduced the number of vehicles on roads and greenhouse gas emissions.

The annual Smart Commute Awards were handed out on November 19 in Toronto to recognize businesses and people who have made significant contributions to the program. This year, there was a tie for Smart Commute Champion of the Year and Town employee, Jennifer Spence (Sustainability Outreach Officer) was one of the awarded recipients.

This award recognizes Jennifer Spence for continuing to make an outstanding contribution to the Smart Commute program. Jennifer consistently supports Smart Commute's mission at the Town, and contributes innovative ideas and tactics to engage her peers. Jennifer produces concrete results towards behaviour change. She has helped expand the program to other local businesses such as Halton Hills Hydro, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Toronto Premium Outlet.

"I am pleased that one of our very

own Town employees, Jennifer Spence, is a recipient of the Smart Commute Champion Award from Metrolinx. Town Council and staff work hard to take sustainable actions that will improve our quality of life in Halton Hills today and in the future," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

With the support of Town Council and staff, Jennifer Spence has expanded the Smart Commute Program to become a well-recognized part of the Town's corporate culture and in the community by:

- Engaging, promoting and delivering strong participation in the Smart Commute Program through carpooling, walking, biking and GO Transit when possible;
- Increasing sustainable commuting practices which have resulted in additional carpool spaces and bike lockers at Town owned facilities, parking lots and throughout the community;
- Promoting the Smart Commute Program through the Staff Sustainability Team to provide additional support and dedication to the program planning at the Town;
- Working with Halton Region staff, Town staff members and Councillor Jane Fogal to provide events such as the annual Noon Hour Bike Ride on Bike to Work Day for Town staff and residents;
- Promoting the Smart Commute Program when presenting to local high school students about sustainability

Police investigating death of firefighter and wife after house fire



Vivien Fleisher photo

By: Dawn Brown

A Halton Hills firefighter, Trevor McNally, and his wife, Susanne Nesbitt-McNally, are dead after a fire in their Eden Mills home on Friday, November 20.

Wellington County OPP responded to a call reporting a structure fire at the couples' Lowrie Lane home shortly after 9 a.m. The Guelph/Ermosa Fire Department with Puslinch Fire and Rescue Services extinguished the fire, removing McNally and his wife from the home and taking them to a local hospital where they were pronounced deceased.

The Wellington County OPP crime unit and the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal are investigating the incident. While post mortems were conducted this past Sunday, police have not yet released the cause of death due to the ongoing nature of the investigation.

A statement issued by Halton Hills Fire Chief, Brent Marshall said, "The Halton Hills Fire Department and Town of Halton Hills are deeply saddened by the deaths of Trevor and Sue McNally. We extend our deepest condolences to family and friends."

The statement went on to explain that the Fire Department would

not address speculation as to the circumstances surrounding the couples' deaths. "Halton Hills Fire was very supportive, committed and involved in the health and well-being of Trevor and Sue. We join our community in wishing that they rest in peace."

44-year-old McNally had been a member of The Halton Hills Fire Department since 2005, and was hired on fulltime in 2007. Nesbitt-McNally, who was 45-years-old, had worked as legal assistant.

As Wellington OPP continues their investigation and as more details become available, our coverage will continue.

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