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Council acts to stop human trafficking in town

By Nelia Raposo Special to The IFP

Human trafficking is happening in Halton Hills and council wants this to stop.

That s why it passed a motion to support Bill 158, Saving the Girl Next Door Act, 2016.

The motion brought forward by Regional Councillor Clark Somerville says that traffickers recruit, transport, harbor, and

control the girl next door for sexual exploitation or forced labour and it is one of the fastest homegrown crimes targeting victims, most of which are Canadian, female and on average, age 14.

The motion goes on to say that Ontario is a major hub of human trafficking in Canada, and victims are lured, manipulated and coerced, often over the internet from every part of

the province; including Acton and Georgetown.

I think the motion speaks for itself. The reason I brought this forward is there have been other municipalities that have supported it and seeing the age of 14 that is the average age and it is an ongoing issue in Ontario. I think it is something we need to add our voices too, Somerville told council on June 20.

I totally agree with Council-

lor Somerville; I think this is a great motion, Councillor Michael Albano said.

A couple of weeks ago during public consultations on the strategic plan, the police chief listed this as one of his priorities and I said, Well human trafficking is that a big issue in Halton? and he said, Yes it is. It's one of the biggest ones, Regional Councillor Jane Fogal said.

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