

Youth needs surveyed by Town

Local youth – the leaders of the future – along with parents and service providers are being asked by the Town what they need and want in the way of recreational programs, services and facilities. The Town – already recognized as a Youth Friendly Community – is conducting a Youth

Needs Study (YNS) to ensure it can meet the needs of youths aged 13 through 19.

Five key areas are being studied including connecting services, youth engagement, access dedicated youth space and education and training. The Town wants to make

sure that there is collaboration with a wide range of youths and youth-serving agencies, and it wants youths to take an active role in advising, planning, delivery, communication and evaluation of services and programs.

The study will make sure that services offered

by the Town to youth are inclusive, sensitive and accessible to youths with disabilities, with different ethnic and racial backgrounds and with varied sexual orientations. The study will also determine the best way to offer education and training to youths.

“YNS is an opportunity for all youth to have a say in what they would like to see and do in our community now and into the future,” said Mayor Rick Bonnette, adding he strongly encourages parents and service providers to participate and share their thoughts too.

There are multiple ways to take part in the YNS process including on Facebook (search for YNS after logging into your account.) Information from polls posted regularly on

Facebook will be analyzed to help form the Study recommendations. Submissions can be e-mailed to youth@haltonhills.ca The Town has slated two open houses this fall to gather public comments, the Acton one is November 17.

Jessica Stovin, the Town’s Recreation Supervisor, Community Programs, said they’ve had great response to the Youth Needs Survey, but it is too soon to say if there is a trend in the comments. “The consultants will take all of the information and data and make a report. I’m very interested to see what the recommendations will be,” Stovin said on Tuesday.

In 1999, an indoor facility study by the Town identified youth space as the number one expressed need. The 2007 Recrea-

tion and Strategic Plan recommended that the Town develop dedicated youth space as part of the Gellert Centre expansion. It also said space at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex should be renovated to accommodate youth drop-in activities, and the report said the Town should look for space in Acton to accommodate youth drop-in activities.

The threatened closure of the youth drop-in centres operated by Links2Care in Acton and Georgetown prompted Council to hire a consultant to examine youth services and to spend \$40,000 to conduct the YNS to develop a municipal strategy to support and provide services and facilities for local youth. The consultants report will be ready for Council by the end of the year.



RIVER CROSSING: Crews lay temporary water lines across the Eramosa River in Rockwood last week in preparation for installation of new pipes under the bridge. – Marie Shadbolt photo

Eco insect fighting

In light of the first unconfirmed death of an elderly Burlington woman of West Nile Virus (WNV) disease, Halton residents are concerned that insects, like mosquitoes, can be a lot of more than just bothersome.

Many people don’t want to rely on chemical repellents to keep bugs at bay and look for greener options. According to Mosquito.org, only female mosquitoes feed on blood and bite their victims. Females need blood to feed their eggs and reproduce. When a mosquito bites, she injects chemicals to prevent blood from clotting and reduce pain.

The standard bug repellent is one that contains the product DEET. It was originally developed in 1946 for military use, but some have questioned its safety. Still, many people prefer to look elsewhere for their repellents, preferring natural products.

Citronella is one of the more effective natural repellents. It is safe for human use and produces no threat to the environment when used

correctly. It is generally applied to the skin and may cause mild irritation if used in abundance.

Rosemary and cedar can also be tried as insect repellents, other safe items to try include sage, mint, neem oil, bay leaves, eucalyptus or cloves.

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