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# Town offers free activities in new youth services program

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The Town of Halton Hills has taken a new approach to its youth service programming in 2017.

In a release sent Tuesday (Feb. 7), the town said it is now offering free drop-in recreational activities for youth aged 12-19.

The programming changes, as of Jan. 16, include free swims, gym access and various others programs at three Halton Hills community centres from 3-7:30 p.m., three days per week.

On Mondays, the Acton Hub has open access to the games room, lounge and kitchen followed by a free swim from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Hillview Active Living Centre in Georgetown is providing free access to its games room for billiards and table tennis, as well as its lounge and kitchen on Wednesdays.

Fridays, the Gellert Community Centre on Eighth Line in Georgetown is offering a free swim from 7:30-8:30 p.m., as well as open access to the game room and lounge during the 3-7:30 p.m. window.

The town added it has the capacity to expand the program to up to seven days per week if it is well received by residents and a need exists.

This program will give local youth the chance to recreate, socialize and access other services in our community, said Mayor Rick Bonnette in the release.

The additional youth services and a full-time (Youth) Recreation Coor-

ordinator, will help to see that we are meeting the recreational needs of local youth.

The after-school drop-in program is part of a larger initiative in partnership with Halton Region, which aims to create a youth service network.

The integrated service model is being used to provide more opportunities for health and social services agencies to partner with the town to use local facilities and connect with youth, wrote the town in its release.

With today's youth facing challenges such as addiction and mental illness, the town and region hope the program will help youth connect with the community programs and resources available to them.

Outreach workers will be working with the town and the region to foster positive working relationships with young people in need. Recreation programmers at the drop-in sites can assist and refer youth who need to access these resources, added the release.

The way we provide services for youth in Halton Hills is evolving, said Commissioner of Recreation and Parks Warren Harris.

Agencies like Links2Care will no longer be operating out of dedicated centres in Acton and Georgetown, but we are hopeful that new partnerships will develop as part of our expanded program offerings and drop-in presence at our facilities. We have taken feedback we have received from local youth to build upon a new service delivery model.

Visit [haltonhills.ca/youth](http://haltonhills.ca/youth) for information.

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