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GDHS alumni pushing back

64 pages

against
Rebels name
change

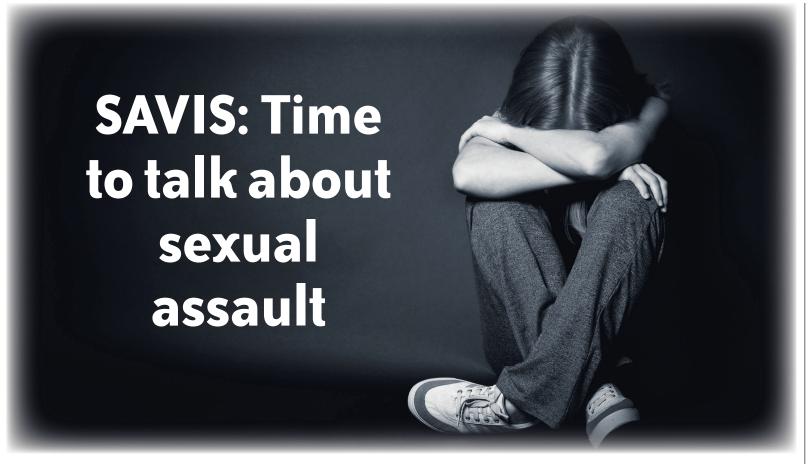
**By Graeme Frisque** gfrisque@metroland.com

A recent decision by Georgetown District High School (GDHS) to explore the possibility of changing the school sports team name has some alumni questioning why.

Since news of the school considering dropping the Rebels moniker came to light last week, a number of alumni have come forward in support of keeping the name as it is. An online petition at change.org asking for the school to remain "The Rebels" has already amassed more than 700 signatures.

"This change has many people upset as it seems an old tradition is to be discarded," said Dennis Martel, a student and member of the school's football team when the Rebels name was first adopted in the early 1960s. "Those who are advocating change are responding to contemporary concerns over vales and ethics but may be too eager to throw out the baby with the bath water."

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Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS) is set to work with Halton police in the wake of a Globe and Mail report claiming the region's police force owns an unusually high rate of dismissed sexual assault claims.

According to the Globe and Mail's report, unfounding

**By Kathryn Boyle** kboyle@theifp.ca

According to a 20-month Globe and Mail investigation into police-reported sexual assault complaints, Halton stands at a 30 per cent 'unfounded' rate; meaning 30 per cent of the allegations boil down to the crime "was neither attempted nor occurred." Upon these findings, the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS) released a statement as to why the inconsistencies may be occurring.

According to the Globe and Mail's report, unfounding occurs when the victim of sexual assault sits down with an officer for a short interview and no investigation ensues. When these types of cases are dismissed so quickly, "it is a sign of deeper flaws in the investigative process; inadequate training for police, dated interviewing techniques that do not take into account the effect that trauma can have on memory, and the persistence of rape myths among law-enforcement officials," SAVIS notes in its report.

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