## New advisory committee, case review teams formed

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gations in areas like training and that accountability mechanisms be in place for the classification of cases ₤ as "unfounded."

It is the latter point that has been the centre of attention of late.

Media coverage of Halton and other police services' handling of sexual assault cases earlier this year, as well as Halton police service's own investigation, led the local police services board to conduct its own review into the mat-

A high rate - 30 per cent of unfounded sexual assaults in Halton (about 50 cases a year) was revealed in a Globe and Mail report, which prompted the internal police audit of the handling of sexual assault cases in Halton in 2016.

There are a number of

reasons police might close a case as unfounded, either because the victim doesn't want to pursue charges, there isn't considered enough evidence or police don't believe a crime occurred as reported.

Members of the new Sexual Assault Case Handling Review Team who attended the report's introduction and passing were Alma Arguello, executive director of Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS); Chondrena Viera-Martin, executive director of Thrive Counselling; Darina Vasek, a social worker with Nina's Place; Jane Bottomley, a charge nurse with Nina's Place; and Tricia Porter, a clinical social worker and consultant with Social Work Support.

Halton police Acting Supt. Anthony Odoardi of CASA is also a member of the review team.

The following are the other members of the Sexual Assault Case Handling Review Team: Martha Barragan (Women's Centre of Halton); Diane Beaulieau (Halton Women's Place); Rebecca Burrows (SAVIS); Kimberley Clark (victim services unit, Halton police); Ancilla Ho-Young (Advancement of Women Halton); Monica Mackenzie (Ministry of the Attorney General), Julie Moscato (executive director of the Halton Regional Police Services Board); and Carol Oosting (Thrive Counsel-

The review team has met a few times as a group and corresponds regularly by email, said Moscato.

'We will continue to meet on an ongoing basis, with our next meeting on June 23. Meetings are every 3-4 weeks, or as needed."

## Sewage plant for Hillsburgh too costly

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The possibility of building a sewage treatment plant in Hillsburgh has been rejected as impractical and too costly by the consultant conducting a Wastewater Environmental Assessment for the Town of Erin.

Joe Mullan, President of Ainley Group, presented a technical report to Town Council recently. He said there is insufficient data on the quality and quantity of the river flow near Hillsburgh to determine if treated sewage effluent could be safely discharged there.

Gathering the data for a new Assimilative Capacity Study could take 10 years and \$500,000 - with no certainty that a Hillsburgh plant would eventually get provincial approval. Council requested the analysis last month, since the option had not be fully explored in the Servicing and Settlement Master Plan

Ainley is recommending that the Town stick with the original plan from the SSMP to have a single wastewater plant discharging downstream of Erin village. Council has made no final decision on this.

A Public Information Centre on the wastewater situation will be held on Thursday, June 22, at Centre 2000. It runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m.

It will describe the scope of possible work, and present the results of studies done so far - including alternatives not covered in the SSMP.

The industry trend is towards less and larger treatment plants in order to reduce operational and compliance costs," said Mullan.

Having two plants would save the estimated \$5.2 million cost of a forcemain to pump Hillsburgh's sewage along the Elora Cataract Trailway to the

Erin village plant.

But building two plants (for the full projected population increase) would cost \$98.3 million, compared to \$60.7 million for just one plant.

In addition, operation and maintenance costs estimated over 50 years would be about \$75 million for a single plant - 32 per cent cheaper than for two plants.

"Subject to development of a cost sharing plan with developers, the full build out cost allocation to the existing community could substantially reduce the per capita cost to existing residents," the Ainley report says.

Previously, growth within the urban areas of Hillsburgh and Erin was to be limited to 1.500 new residents - based on providing sewer service to all existing residents. As reported last November, a new strategy could exclude several existing subdivisions from getting sewers.



