

Ontario lieutenant-governor visits Halton Hills

ALEXANDRA HECK
aheck@metroland.com

Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdeswell stopped in Halton Hills on her cross-province tour, talking about sustainability.

Dowdeswell is hosting roundtable discussions in municipalities across the province to talk about how to make a community more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

"People are really interested in sustainability and for me, that's not just environmental stewardship," she said. "It's how you link that to economic development and social cohesion."

Dowdeswell and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette headed up a discussion about sustainability in Halton Hills alongside selected community members.

"I wouldn't give advice," said Dowdeswell, explaining that her initiative is not political. "But I can certainly encourage them."

She says that sustainability is an ongoing journey in every community, complete with goals and milestones.

Sustainability in the lieutenant-governor's terms is talking about creating meaningful jobs in a community, dealing with poverty and instituting a climate change plan.

"We're talking about the 17 sustainable development goals that were negotiated by the United Nations," said Dowdeswell.

Affordable housing was touched on in the roundtable discussion, which was not open to the public.

"We certainly talked about ways in which to make sure that there is a quality of life for people getting into the market as well as for those who want to downsize," she said.

Her honour gave Bonnette a challenge, to see by the end of the year how many of the 17 UN sustainability goals could be accomplished in his own town.

"Sustainability in all of its forms doesn't happen by accident," she said, explaining that it requires planning, and her hope is to spark a greater public consciousness about the topic by hosting discussions across

Ontario.

"I think one of the challenges facing all of us is the world is changing," said Dowdeswell. "Technologies are creating very different sets of circumstances, and they're affecting the econo-

my, jobs, they affect the need for education just the pace of something that every community is grappling with."

When asked about the role

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