



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

BUSINESS (NOT QUITE) AS USUAL..

Dear people of Halton Hills;

During these uncertain times, rest assured we remain open to serve you. We have adjusted services according to the guidance by Health Canada.

Please call for an appointment. We are not accepting walk ins at this time.

We handle every call on an individual basis to best handle each person's needs.

Social distancing in clinic with one appointment per time slot in waiting room.

If necessary, I offer mailbox drops as well!

Take care, be safe and know this will pass.

The Georgetown



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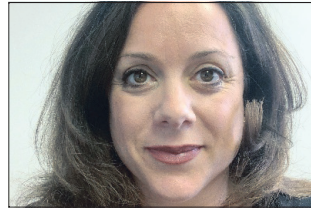
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OPINION

FIGHTING TO ELIMINATE SEXUAL ASSAULT

ALL OF US MUST WORK TO END THE SILENCE, WRITES LAURIE HEPBURN



LAURIE HEPBURN
Column

May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Individuals and groups will no doubt be tweeting and writing about the importance of recognizing the issue surrounding sexual violence and assault.

What is truly important is action behind the words — actions to show survi-

vors we believe them.

Sexual violence and sexual assault can happen to anyone. However, we know that certain people are at greater risk. In Canada, one out of three women will experience sexual violence in her lifetime. The same is true for one out of six men.

Those between the ages of 15 and 24 experience the highest rates of sexual assault. Additionally, people who are marginalized by race, gender, sexuality, physical or mental ability, income, or language are also more likely to experience sexual violence. Within these same Canadian reports, it is shown that more than 50 per cent of sexual assaults were committed by people known to the victim. This is not a topic openly discussed, and often there is shame and stigma surrounding it. Due to the silence around sexual as-

sault, many survivors don't feel comfortable sharing their experiences, and many decide to keep it to themselves rather than reach out for help.

This is an opportunity for all of us to end the silence — to end the stigma and show support by dispelling myths surround sexual assault and, as well, listening to survivors.

To learn more about dispelling myths surround sexual violence and assault, please visit www.ontario.ca/page/dispelling-myths-about-sexual-assault.

On May 21, the Halton Violence Prevention Council will be launching a new website for survivors of sexual violence and their supporters.

As well, we at Halton Women's Place will be hosting the "I ASK" Virtual Conference in collabora-

tion with our partners SAVIS and ROCK. Our guest speakers will share their personal stories and discuss being an active bystander, responding to disclosures and rape culture.

Halton has many resources for those seeking support about their experiences with sexual assault and sexual violence.

- Halton Women's Place: 905-332-1593 or 905-878-855

- SAVIS (Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services): 905-875-1555

- Nina's Place and The Regional Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Care Centre of Halton at Joseph Brant Hospital: 905-632-3737, ext. 5708.

Laurie Hepburn is the executive director at Halton Women's Place. She can be reached at Lhepburn@haltonwomensplace.com.



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