



Melanie Hennessey/Metroland

Mayor Rick Bonnette and local transgender youth Stella Skinner cut the ribbon to officially open Acton's first rainbow crosswalk.

## RAINBOW CROSSWALK INSTALLED IN ACTON

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Acton residents may notice a touch more colour in town, thanks to a newly-completed project to celebrate diversity and inclusivity.

The Town of Halton Hills installed and celebrated its second rainbow crosswalk Tuesday (June 15) in support of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

"This crosswalk doesn't solve our problems," said Stella Skinner, a grade seven student at McKenzie-Smith Bennett, "But it shows the Town is trying to change."

Stella's mother, Jess Skinner, said the crosswalk was an important moment.

"When Stella transitioned there wasn't any conversation like this — it almost felt hostile. Seven years later, there are allies popping up everywhere," Jess said.

Earlier in the month,

**"We're being celebrated. It's not just a flag that will come down at the end of the month - this will be there for a long time."**

- Stella Skinner

Stella was the first student to raise the Pride flag at her school.

"We're being celebrated," Stella said. "It's not just a flag that will come down at the end of the month — this will be there for a long time."

The crosswalk was also welcomed by Hailey Canning, a 16-year-old transgender Acton resident who came out to watch the un-

veiling.

"The crosswalk shows that the government cares about us and supports us," she said.

Mother Lisa Canning said the new installation also represents having pride in the journey to get to your true self.

"It's about being proud of who you are now so that everyone can see you're a valuable part of the community," she said.

While the event was held virtually, several members of the community attended the socially-distanced ceremony.

"These crosswalks serve as a permanent symbol of the Town's commitment to support diversity and inclusion in Halton Hills," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Similar to the rainbow crosswalk installed in Georgetown last year, the new Acton crosswalk is a short distance from the Halton Hills Public Library.

"Having safe and inclusive spaces is part of our niche," Melanie Southern, chief librarian of the HHPL said about the crosswalk's location.

Acton's rainbow crosswalk is located at the intersection of Main St. and River St.

## Dear Neighbours

As we all see a light at the end of the tunnel - and fervently hope it isn't another train- Foodstuffs is open to in-store shopping again!

We are open, as we have been throughout, from 9:30 - 5:30, Monday to Saturday. In an effort to keep an appointed time and space open, we have set aside 2 hours each day (9:30 - 11:30 weekdays and 1:30 - 3:30 on Saturday) for orders from our online/curbside customers.

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We continue to be inspired by the resiliency, kindness and courtesy of our community. Thank you!

## Fathers are ...

*The teeth on a saw,  
The head of a nail,  
The blades on a mower.*

*Fathers are...  
The grit in a tumbler,  
The cement in the pit,  
The coin for the machine.*

*Fathers are...  
The air in the tires,  
The spring in the suspension,  
The key to the ignition.*

*Fathers are...  
The confidence in a dare,  
The energy of a command,  
The boots for the trail.*

*Tis true you might make things work without them,  
but not at all like they were meant to."*

*"Making Wishes" by  
Richelle E. Goodrich*



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