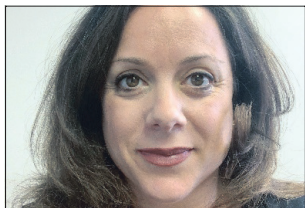


AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

MORE WORK NEEDED TO ELIMINATE THIS TERRIBLE PROBLEM, WRITES LAURIE HEPBURN



LAURIE HEPBURN
Column

Twelve years ago, Halton Women's Place created an event where men walk in heels to engage boys and men around the issue of violence against women and their crucial role in prevention.

That was our first step in male engagement and a relatively new phenomenon at

the time for the violence against women sector.

This event was Hope in High Heels.

Today we are proud of our decision to include boys and men in our mission to eliminate domestic violence. Beyond our walk event, we have heard from men across the region who want to be male allies for Halton Women's Place and help raise awareness about the issue in their community.

It's an issue in which their daughters, nieces, friends and family members may become victims, and their sons, nephews, friends or family may become perpetrators.

We know that boys and men have the power to end gender-based violence. This will occur through education, challenging conversations and placing responsibility for changing behaviour back with boys

and men.

For boys, we know it may be more helpful to learn this role from another male influence. This is one reason why Halton Women's Place employs a male educator through our Public Education and Violence Prevention Program. In April we welcomed a new male public educator, Husayn, to the role to facilitate these discussions and reach this audience as well as host our male Engagement program within the schools.

It is important for boys to know that they have choices if they are currently living in a home where violence is present. They do not have to follow this same pattern. We must teach our youth how to stand up against the violence or misogyny they might witness.

It is also an important message for men. Men have a responsibility to call out



Metroland file photo

Hope in High Heels has become an important tool in the fight to end violence against women.

inappropriate jokes and conversations about girls and women. It is only with their advocacy and energy that we can make big societal shifts in the prevention and elimination of violence against women.

More men in our community need to be a part of this conversation — a part of this solution. It goes above and beyond our September Hope in High Heel

walks. We are looking for deep conversations and follow up actions on how boys and men can create a community of safety within Halton.

As Father's Day approaches, the most important role that the men and fathers in our community can play is to actively explore their own influence on ending the issue of violence against women.

One concrete action step you can to take this month is: every time you hear of an incident of violence within a family, rather than asking why a woman chooses to stay, ask why was he abusive?

What in our society allowed him to feel that holding power over his partner was appropriate or OK?

For more information on our Public Education and Engagement programs, visit haltonwomensplace.com/public-education/

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



SCAN FOR MORE
Scan this code for more local opinions.

— ADVERTORIAL —

Empowering clients



“Information is power—we take the down-to-earth, educational approach with clients, so they understand what is happening, and empower them with information to make choices,” explains Todd Hein, one of the founding partners of Lockyer + Hein LLP Barristers + Solicitors. People gain confidence as we create a game plan together and they begin to see hope that the situation can be resolved.”

Lockyer + Hein LLP Barristers + Solicitor is a full-service firm with three offices in Georgetown, Caledon and Brampton. Clients can expect to receive the best legal services for family law, employment, real estate, corporate law, wills

and estates, estate litigation, and civil litigation.

Partners James (Jim) Lockyer and Todd Hein, joined forces in 2015 after working together at another firm. In 2018, David Keith joined the partnership. Collectively, all partners have more than 60 years of law experience and have a network of resources outside of the firm. Including mediators, counselors, and other service providers to meet the needs of their clients.

“We try to break down walls, so people don't feel intimidated when coming to a law firm,” says Hein. “We share a common goal in trying to resolve the issue in the most cost-effective way to bring finality to what can be a difficult and emotional time in someone's life.”

- ✓ **Virtual Meetings**
- ✓ **Over The Phone**
- ✓ **Here to Help**

8 Guelph Street, Georgetown

905-452-7400

www.lhlaw.ca

LOCKYER + HEIN LLP
BARRISTERS + SOLICITORS

Hearing people wearing face masks just got easier

If face masks and social distancing are making it harder for you to hear what people are saying, our hearing aids can help.



HALTON
AUDIOMETRIC CENTRE

HEARING AIDS & AUDIOMETRY

Georgetown's trusted choice for hearing care

905.877.8828

360 Guelph St., Unit 44
Georgetown

(In the Knolcrest Centre) haltonaudiometric.ca

