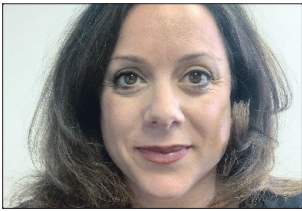


HEARTBREAKING ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES

FAMILY HOPES DAUGHTER'S DEATH CREATES CHANGE WHEN IT COMES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, WRITES LAURIE HEPBURN



LAURIE HEPBURN
Column

This month, on July 28, an anniversary will be recognized. Unfortunately, it is not an anniversary that will be celebrated. That day in July, just one year ago, was the last time Paul and Flo Henderson-Bellman saw their beloved 'Dare,' Darian Hailey Henderson Bellman, alive.

Darian, a 25-year-old woman from Georgetown, was fatally shot in Peel. A 27-year-old man she was in a relationship with has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial. The charge hasn't been proven in court.

As this anniversary approaches, Paul and Flo wanted to share the following words with our community;

"As her parents, we hope this will draw attention to violence against women and to those who need help. Due to the help of many groups like Victim Services, Halton Women's Place and the Peel and Halton regional police services, our hope is to create change in the judicial system ... (and ensure) the women experiencing abuse are helped. This would

then mean Darian did not die in vain. Our pain will never cease. From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us through this horrendous time and who are keeping up their fight for change."

I have had the honour of meeting with Paul and Flo as they advocate for change within the justice system. I have learned about Darian's enthusiasm for helping Paul with his hot rods, her empathetic heart which always saw the good in others, and her unconditional love for her family.

Paul and Flo have shown tremendous courage and strength over and over again as they have reached out to others and shared their experiences. This is not an easy thing to do, but they have a reason. They don't want what allegedly happened to Darian to happen to any other young woman. They want women who are experiencing abuse — any kind of abuse — to reach out for help.

At Halton Women's Place we will continue to amplify the voices of women and their families, like Darian's, as well as others who need their voices to be heard. The agencies that engage with survivors of domestic violence are frustrated with the lack of ability to keep women safe in the current system. Following her death, Peel Regional Police Chief Nishan Duraiappah said, "This represents a tragic outcome for a young person who carried a bright future. In this incident, the sadness I feel for the victim and her family is mixed with frustration for a complete failure of our justice system to protect her."

I know that this month is incredibly hard for Paul and Flo, but it is important

"At Halton Women's Place we will continue to amplify the voices of women and their families, like Darian's, as well as others who need their voices to be heard."

— Laurie Hepburn

to talk about the issue and raise awareness in our community.

Domestic violence knows no boundaries. It happens everywhere, and it happens in Halton, too. Help us raise awareness and let us create safe spaces for women experiencing abuse to share what is happening to them.

You are not alone.

If you are in an abusive relationship or know someone who might be, please reach out to our Crisis, Information and Support lines at 905-332-7892 and 905-878-8555 or chat online at www.haltonwomensplace.com/chat — all open 24 hours a day.

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



SCAN THIS CODE FOR MORE LOCAL OPINION.

NOW OPEN



Naturally Fresh food & Juice Bar

WITH THIS COUPON REDEEM

25% Off

CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS. LIMIT ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER.



naturallyfresh.ca 

416-809-6497

158 Guelph St. Georgetown

*This coupon is valid until July 31, 2021

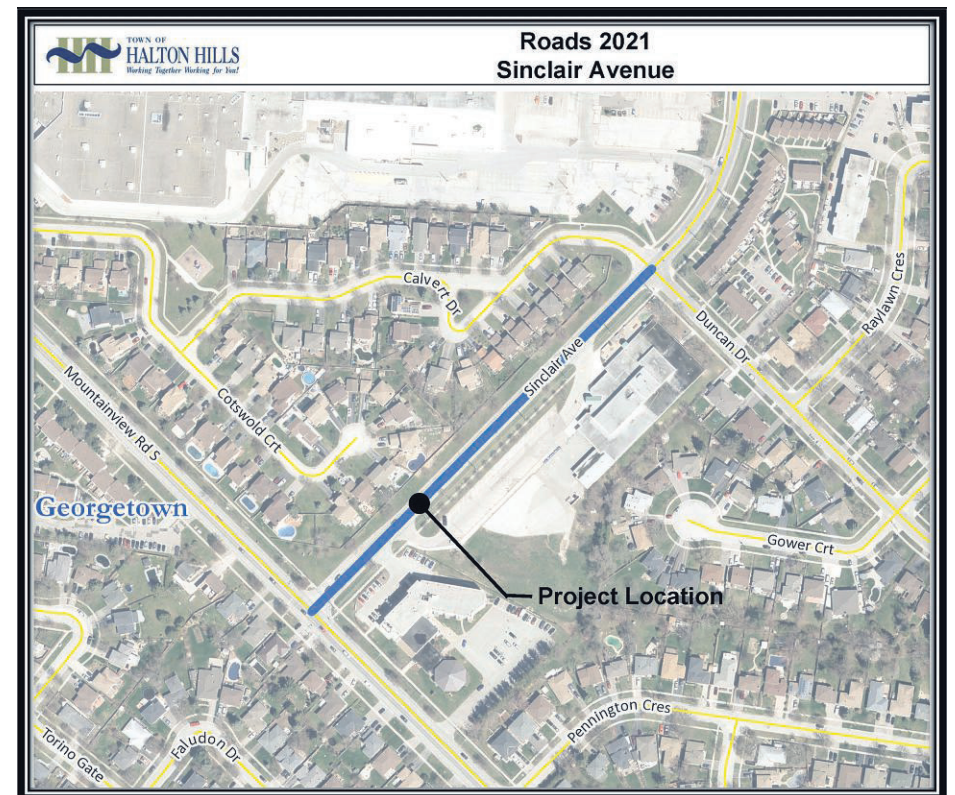
Notice of Road Closure

ROADS 2021: Pavement Management, Ward 3



The Town of Halton Hills is advising of the temporary road closure of Sinclair Avenue between Mountainview Road and Duncan Drive.

Closure is scheduled to take place from July 26, 2021 to September 3, 2021 and is required to allow for the construction on Sinclair Avenue.



Questions?

Contact Teri Hoey, C.E.T
Supervisor of Construction
905-873-2600, ext. 2309 | terih@haltonhills.ca