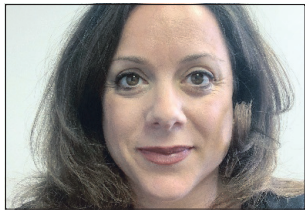


A STEP TOWARD ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN HOPE IN HIGH HEELS CAMPAIGN, WRITES LAURIE HEPBURN



LAURIE HEPBURN
Column

When September comes, we think of two things — the beginning of the school year and Hope in High Heels.

For the last two years, we walked together — but separately — as we organized virtual walks throughout the community during one week in late September.

We are so grateful to all of you who gathered friends, fami-

ly and colleagues to walk down your streets and neighbourhoods to show your support in ending violence against women — with high heels or not.

This year, we bring you a hybrid event, which gives you the opportunity to walk throughout the week of Sept. 18 to 24 or join us in downtown Burlington on Sept. 24 in person.

During these last two years, we have redesigned the event to include everyone as participants (not just boys and men) and to include the option of wearing the heels.

However, this does remain our main campaign, to highlight the importance of boys and men standing up against gender-based violence and joining us as allies in violence prevention.

Women have been doing this work for many years, and now more boys and men are getting involved in women's organizations and the prevention work that is much needed to make a

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change.

It is important to have meaningful conversations with each other and share our advocacy as individuals who understand that gender-based violence remains an awful and often tragic and traumatic reality for many.

Through our public education program and our Male EngageMENT Program, we address gender equality and the positive roles that boys and men can play in preventing and ending violence against women.

We know that by engaging boys and men in the crucial conversations and the actions toward prevention, we can make change as a whole.

We are inviting our community — from businesses to corporations to families and friends — to join us in standing up and walking for a world where women and girls are not living in fear in their relationships.

Walk with us on Sept. 24. To help us make a change, register at www.haltonwomenspace.com/hihh or contact Kaitlin McKenna at kmckenna@haltonwomenspace.com.

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

NEWS

ACTON PARK IMPROVEMENTS SET TO BEGIN

The Town of Halton Hills will begin its Rennie Street Park improvements this month.

The revamped Acton park will include an obstacle/challenge focused play area and a multi-court area. The changes and new features were elements identified through public consultation.

Also included in the plan are:

- improved landscaping
 - a range of play elements for children, youth, adults and seniors
 - additional trees to provide shade
 - a pathway connection to the Rennie Woodlot Trail
 - seating and rest areas
- The existing playground area and soccer field will remain. Rennie Park is located off Tanners Drive at the corner of Rennie and Nelles streets. The work is expected to be completed in the spring of 2023.



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