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Acton welcomes Alexanian



Photo by Deborah Quaile

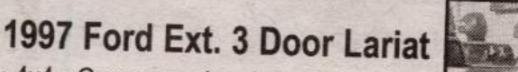
The official "Carpet Cutting" at the new Alexanian's store took place on Saturday, March 2 in Acton. Partners Rob Charette and Kaz Baginski have purchased an Alexanian's outlet for their former Lakeview location.

From left to right are: Dobbie Frizzel, Josey Bonnette, Rick Bonnette, John Brittan, VP of Marketing & Sales at Alexanian's (behind), Rob Charette, John McNabb, Acton's BIA President (behind), Mayor Kathy Gastle, Albert Alexanian (behind), Kaz Baginski and Andrew Alexanian.

And congratulations to Mayor Gastle who really did saw her way through that thick carpet.

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COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE KARIN ROSKAM

by Donna Danielli

The statistics are almost unbe-L lievable.

Each year, unintentional injuries kill more than 7,000 children and permanently disable more than 50,000.

In Canada, injuries are the leading cause of death for children over one year old. That's more than drugs and disease combined. While it may seem to be getting harder and harder to ensure the safety of our children, Nassagaweya's Karin Roskam is bringing a program to Halton to help keep kids safe.

Last winter, when she was becoming certified as a Public Fire and Life Safety Educator, part of her program involved targeting a high risk area in her community. Mrs. Roskam chose to focus on children's safety and on bringing. "Risk Watch" to Halton.

With proper education, children can learn to be much safer and prevent injuries, and that's exactly what "Risk Watch" is designed to do.

"Risk Watch," for use in the school system as grade-specific modules, focuses on eight target issues: motor vehicle safety, fire and burn prevention, choking, suffocation and strangulation prevention, poisoning prevention, falls prevention, firearms injury prevention, bike and pedestrian safety and water safety.

"The beauty of this (program) is that previously police, fire and other emergency departments had

their own individual programs. "Risk Watch" makes it easier to implement one program more effectively," Mrs. Roskam says. "As a small community, we have the ability to come together as a community and share resources."

"Risk Watch" activities combine teaching and imagination to help children learn to promote their own personal safety and wellbeing. It is a sequential program of instruction that allows for an increasing level of comprehension and complexity from preschool to eighth grade.

"It's got to be easy," says Mrs. Roskam. "If a lot of the pre-planning is done for the teachers, the more likely they are to use the program. My goal is to implement "Risk Watch" in all of the schools and daycare centres in Milton."

In 2001, Mrs. Roskam approached the Milton Safety Committee for help in bringing "Risk Watch" to the area.

The Milton Risk Watch Coalition was created as a subcommittee of the Milton Safety Committee and the work began. Funding was raised through partnerships with Halton Catholic District School Board, Prosperity One, Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council, National Fire Protection Association and The Co-operators.

Pilot programs began in Halton Hills in the Halton Catholic District School Board and



Karin Roskam

before long "Risk Watch" was a

part of all the Catholic Schools in

Halton. Next, Milton Heights

Academy took on "Risk Watch" as

a pilot project and Brookville Public School has shown an interest in the program. The Milton Risk Watch Coalition, which along with Mrs. Roskam includes members from the Milton Safety Committee, Milton Fire Department, Halton Regional Police, Region of Halton,

Halton Catholic District School Board, Town of Milton, Trauma Prevention Council, Prosperity One, The Co-operators and Red Cross, are all volunteers.

Mrs. Roskam manages to fit in a substantial amount of volunteer hours with her 12 hour shifts as dispatcher for 911 at the Milton Fire Station.

"I'm happy to be involved in teaching people to prevent injuries to themselves, children and extended families," she says. "It feels really good."

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